(Copy)

Chamber of Accounts No. 1

Philadelphia 5th. Janry 1781.

The Commissioners Report....

That they have examined the Copy of an Account of John Ross certified by John L. Jones, Thomas Hutchins, and Joseph Wharton Junr., to be a true and just Copy of an Original Account Current with the United States, as settled by Samuel Wharton and Edward Bancroft, at the request of his Excellency Benjamin Franklin Esqr. Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States at the Court of France as per his Certificate dated Paris 8th. of August 1779, who make the balance due him on the 1st. July 1779 in Sterling..... £18,077. 8. 2

That the Interest thereon from the 1st. of July 1779 to this day, being 1 Year 6 Mos. 5 days at 5 p Cent Amounts to..... 1,368. 3. 9

£ 19,445. 11. 11

Amounting in the whole to Nineteen thousand, four hundred and forty five Pounds, eleven shillings, and eleven pence Sterling, which calculated at Four shillings and six pence sterling per Dollar, will be equal to Eighty six thousand, four hundred, and twenty four Dollars, and forty seven fifty fourths of a Dollar.

But as they have not been presented with the Original Accounts and Vouchers, and the Order of Congress of the 11th. August 1778 quoted by Mr. Franklin not being in the printed Journals, and they not having it in their power to determine whether or no he has received any Payment on Account, since the said

said settlement in Paris pursuant to said Order of Congre
they cannot pretend to determine thereon, and are of opinion
all such Accounts should be liquidated and Reported on
by the Commercial Committee. —

Signed { William Govett
John D. Mercier.

To

James Milligan Esqr.
Auditor General.

Auditor Generals Office
January 1st. 1781. —

I do Certify to the Commissioners of the Board of Treasury
That I have looked over an Account Current of John Ross
with the United States, a Copy of which is mentioned in the
within Report of the Commissioners of the Chamber of
Accounts dated the 5th. instant And find, that by desire of his
Excellency Benjamin Franklin Esqr. Minister Plenipotentiary
of these States at the Court of Versailles, Samuel Wharton
and Edward Bancroft at Passy, have examined and com
pared this Account with the Original Invoices and other Papers,
and have struck the Balance said to be due to Mr. Ross on
the 1st of July 1779, as appears by the Certificate of these Gen
tlemen, together with that of the Minister Plenipotentiary anne
xed to the Account. —

These being the only Documents produ
ced, without any other Vouchers whatever to support the Charge
which

which constitute the gross sum exhibited in his Account, I can form no Opinion of my own, respecting the justice or propriety of the Claim: Before this or any other Account under similar circumstances can with propriety be liquidated here, it seems to me necessary to establish a point, which I believe is not fully explained or understood. ——

Settlements of this nature made in Europe are either final and decisive, or they are not so; if they are, there can be no use in a second liquidation here; if they are not so (which I am rather inclined to believe is the case, from the references that have already been made) then not only general Accounts Current, but also particular Invoices, Bills of Lading, Receipts for Monies paid, with every other paper necessary to elucidate the Account, must be presented, in order that justice may be done to the parties concerned. —

Untill this point is determined by those whose province it is, I apprehend that nothing decisive can be done with such Accounts in the State they are produced here. ——

Whatever the determination on this may be in either case, I conceive it absolutely necessary, that it should be made appear to whom all goods shipped from Europe were consigned, or who received them in this Country, in order that the proper Entries may be made, and those persons called to Account for the application of the Articles, which I am convinced is as necessary as Accounting for Cash. —

Compared with the Original in the Office of the Board of Treasury — Wm Duane Cg.

(Signed) James Milligan
Agt.

Extract of a Letter from R. H. Lee Esq.r dated,

Chantilly Jan.y 7. 1781.

I left Richmond on the 3.d Inst. in the Afternoon

the Evening I received a Letter from the Governor

informing me that Arnold with Six Ships, 7 or 8 Brigs

& other Vessels, with from 1500 to 2000 Men on

Board was up high as James Town, & making Incl

for James River. The Design of the Party is certainly

to plunder & intercept our Attention to the Southern

War. His Ships present him a Safe Asylum when

pursued by Force, & his Boats & Vessels can

ascend James River with the Tide, & return

with the first of the Ebb.

key sail to another Town for us keeping us in
continual hot Water. Altho this hateful Way of
waring puts them not at Sot mind to their Pur-
of Conquest, yet it may intimidate, & thereby hinder
their Designs, on another Quarter. For them fleet
stale on shore of the land with a Brigade to keep
coming into our Bay would be a Means of speedily &
easily was apprehending the whole Band of Plunderers,
remove or Embarrassments & give free Course to our
Southern Operations. The Ships that effected this service
might be gone away before the Enemy could get Notice
of com with a superior Force by Sea. Besides I do not

think they could venture much to obtain the Collection
you have. Perhaps if you & Jon could speak with
on the Subject of Privateers. Could the Merchants be consult
on the Point; if the Lord Council of Boston & Rhode
Island &c. Gen. Washington. I am satisfied that he has
Foes mentioned already with the Papers for
any before the Country could know that it was a Spirit
of you should think with me on this Subject I wish
we could but that you will take into Consideration
before the Post sets out that I may hear

Dear Sir

Boston Jany. 10th. 1781.

I did myself the pleasure to write you from Plymouth about three weeks ago. when I informed you that I had not then been able to ascertain as you desired the several facts you requested me to do. & that I Expected to do it as soon as I returned to this place. upon my arrival here I applyed to Mr Hodget. & am Informed that he supposing you would wish to have them soon. had Transmitted the necessary Papers to you before I returned. I hope you have received them & that they will fully answer your wishes

we have no News here but what come from the Southward, The General Court are putting in Order. & arranging their Finances & doing every thing in their Power to compleat their Battalions. & to supply the Army. I hear they are publishing in New York the Letters they stole from our Post. among which is said to be one from you to Mr Cooper I hope the publication of the Contents will prove no Injury to you. I am Sir with Great Respect Your Most obed. Humble Servt. J Warren

Honble. Arthur Lee Esq

Valenciennes Le 11 Janvier 1781

J'oubliè Monsieur Lalure que vous mavez fait lhonneur de mécrire le 24 8bre qui marrivé. Jay eu celui de vous mander Ily a quelque tems que Jetois venuy pour rendre des soins a ma belle sœur qui avoit lhonneur d'être amie de vous. Jay eu le malheur de la perdre Ily a six jours. Sa mort ma été très Sensible. Jetois fort le dien espoir la remplacer pour moy. Son mari a ses frères sont dans une douleur extrême. Je ne sçay encore quand je pourrai les ramener a Paris ne Say une grande impatience d'arriver. ce sera Surement avant la fin du mois.

Si vous voyez mr de la Luzerne, Je pluton, quand vous le verrez, Je vous prie de lui apprendre que Jai passé mon tems en Hollande et toute cette partie cy de l'hiver a valenciennes. que cest par cette raison quil na pas lhonneur parler de moy mais quaussitot que Je serai a Paris, Je renouerai la conversation.

La déclaration de Guerre de la cour de Londres contre la Hollande, aura été nouvelle Scene, qui nest pas encore bien éclaircie nous verrons quels evenemens elle amenera. Je sçay que pendant que Jy étois, leurs marins avoient bien Sourent limpudence de combattre de la même Simple. Ils ont été Souvent humiliés par

les anglois le brulent du desir de prendre leur revanche. En attendant M d'Estaing les tient Ny a pour de jours a Brest avec sa flotte en Rade bien loin que la longueur de la campagne qu'elle vient de faire les prive de nouveaux renforts ils nous allons nous preparer a donner aux printems prochain une forme nouvelle a cette guerre.

Quand vous verrez mr Izard engrez J'imagine qui vous arrive souvent, Je vous prie de lui dire mille choses pour moy. — mde Izard Son mari et toute la famille J'ecrirai les dernieres nouvelles que J'ay eues d'elle

Le Sieur Procureur General Gates contre mr Ferguson a fait entre bon effet dans cette partie ou demande: Je souhaite que vous en emportiez de semblables lorsque vous mettrés les affaires sur un pied qui nous fasse apercevoir la fin. Je crois pour tout engrez J'entens dire, que vous Serez content de nous.

Adieu Monsieur Je vous quitterai de vos commissions auprés des personnes que vous m'indiquerez et qui seront fort aise de vous savoir entre bonne santé. Je finis sans ceremonie, comme Je vous exhorte a le faire de votre coté en vous renouvellant les assurances de nos sentimens

My dear Sir

Philad.a June 8.th 1781 (284

Your second Letter came to hand in due season on
My much esteemed Friend M.r Arthur Lee will take the Charge
of this — I will say to you as I have said to my Dear Friends,
who are solicitous to know what Treatment he meets with here.
The more I have conversed with him, the more I have been confirmed
in a good opinion of him, and lamented the Misfortune and
Prejudices of some Men & the Wickedness of others. His Enemies,
I think, dare not openly attack his Reputation for Conduct
But the Whisperers of Envy & Malice, have sometimes Influence
enough to prevent the Justice due to the virtuous Citizen.
When this is the Case, it affords a Symptom of the Decay of
publick Spirit, more threatning to the Liberties of a Common
Wealth than Hosts of foreign Enemies. Monarchs have their
Favorites who serve as Stays on their bowed Subjects. But
Republicks should examine the Conduct of their Servants
with an impartial Eye; and it discovers the Want of publick
Virtue, or much, to withhold their Smiles from the wise and
good as to bestow them on the wicked & unfaithful. M.r Lee
has as yet had neither Smiles nor Favour. I am still in hopes, he
will meet with the Rewards which I am sure he would have received
if he had returned a few years ago. He will have them, when
the Passions of the Publick shall have Foolish ends no longer to be
misinformed by great Names of Characters given to Men of
base & depraved Minds. You will ask, when that will be. Perhaps
not in this Age. But the Historian will in some future time
draw forth the Proofs of his Patriotism, & impartial Posterity
will acknowledge that Arthur Lee has borne a great Share
in defending & establishing the Liberties of America. I say
Posterity; for I believe that a wiser Generation will enjoy
the Fruits of the Toil of Patriots & Heroes in the present Day.

My Friend, we must not suffer any thing to discourage us
in this great Conflict. Let us resort to first Principles without
Delay. It is our Duty, to make every proper Exertion in our

from the respective States to revive the old patriotick Fire among the People at large, and to get the publick Dependancies, especially the most important of them, filled with a Race of Understanding & inflexible Virtue. It would be indeed alarming, if the United States should ever entrust the Ship in which our all is at Stake, with an unprincipled, inexperienced Pilote. Our Cause is too interesting to Mankind, to be put under the Direction of Men, vain, avaricious or conceald under the Hypocritical Guise of Superstition, without a Spark of publick or private Virtue. We may possibly be more in Danger of this, than many of our honest Citizens may imagine. Is there not Reason to apprehend, that even those who are inimical to our Cause may steal into Places of the highest Trust? I need not remind you that Men of this Character have had Seats in Congress from the beginning. Where is Galloway, Low, Allen & Alexander?— If it was so in those Times of Vigilance & Zeal, how much more is it to be expected, when the Love of many is waxen cold, & their Minds are distracted with the Pursuit of Pleasure & worldly Riches. We cannot be persuaded to believe that bad Men have been sent by their States with a View of giving a fatal Stab to our Cause in its Infancy; but is it unreasonable to suppose that their Elections were secretly influenced by artful Men, with this Design. Our most dangerous Enemies may be in our Bosoms.

Mr Lee will inform you how Matters go on here.

I must let you know that when your Kinsman Mr William Lee was in Boston in Sept 1779 he borrowed five hundred Dollars of Mr Morgill Esq, and drew his Bill on his Brother Mr George Lee of Westmoreland County. I wish it may be paid on Sight, for it was advanced on my Application.

My Regards to Mrs Lee &c— Adieu & believe me to be

Your Friend

Sam.l Adams's
Letter July. 15. 1781.
Publis

Jan 25. 1781

I do hereby Testify that the honble A Lee Esqr explicitly declared to me that he would not have the goods that I was to purchase for him, go in the Ship Alliance if it contravened any rule or affected the public Stores. That it was upon my assuring him that they should make part of what I had permission to carry in my private Birth that Mr. Lee consented to have them brought. That when Captain Landais took the Frigate Mr. Lee applied to me not to purchase the goods, & told him I had already contracted for them & that I expected to comprise them in one Invoice.

That Tho' they were interspers'd with mine in different Trunks, yet they might have been contain'd in one, & that Mr. Lee did not know they were mix'd with mine till we got to Sea. That Mr. Lee strictly enjoin'd me to do nothing concerning these goods that might throw the least imputation upon him of having done any thing that the rules of the Navy forbid

Boston Jan. 25. 1781 Nathan Bodget

Ship Alliance. Boston Harbour Jan. 29. 1781

This may certify all whom it may Concern, that what goods I knew of belonging to Mr. N. Blodget, late purser of the said Ship, did not interfere with or take up the room of Publick Stores, as they were lodged in the Wardroom, They did not amount to more than two or three Trunks, marked in his name, & did not come on board till within two or three days before our Sailing from the Isle de Groa.

Signed M. Parke Capt. Marines

A True Copy
N. Blodget

These may Certify all whom it may Concern, That the goods brought from France in the Ship Alliance by Nath. Blodget, were put on board but a few days before she saild. That at that time & from thence to her sailing there did not appear any intention whatsoever to take in any more publick Stores, the Frigate being already Freighted with them. That therefore what goods he brought did not in our opinion interfere in the least with the publick Stores, The Captain having signified his resolution to take in no more. That various other packages were taken in about the same time for different persons, such as two or three for the Minister of France, a quantity of Baggage & a hogshead of wine belonging to some French Gentlemen who were passengers.

That if there had been any Idea of taking in any more publick Stores, much more room might have been made by retrenching the Baggage of the passengers, than by Leaving out Mr Blodgets Goods

Boston Jan. 31. 1781 signed James Degge Lieut

Chipman Bangs
Ships Steward

A True copy N Blodget.

(No 389)

Sir Philadelphia 31st Jan.y 1781.

I take the liberty of enclosing a letter for your Brother. Congress have for about a fortnight past been in a Committee of the whole House on the subject of Finance, and have resolved to recommend it to the different Legislatures, to pass Laws for imposing duties on all imports to the amount of 4 per Cent, to be estimated at the prices the commodities sell at when imported, & the same duties on all prize goods. I wish Congress had the power of making the imposition themselves, as much delay will be occasioned by the present mode. America has certainly not made, nor does she seem disposed to make, the exertions of which she is capable. She appears

rather to be inclined to continue in the same shameful state of dependence on her European connexions which she now is, than to determine to extricate herself from it, by calling forth her own powers! I do not pretend to any great knowledge in the deep, & mysterious business of Finance. But without possessing that knowledge, I am clearly of opinion that America has the means within herself of expelling the Enemy, & making herself respected by the whole World, which is far from being the case at present. Nothing is wanting but the determination to sacrifice a certain part of our property for the preservation of the remainder. It is supposed that there are three millions of inhabitants in America; & I think it a very moderate estimate to say that their property amounts,

one with another, to Fifty Pounds Sterling a piece. The property therefore of America, Real & Personal, is supposed to amount to One Hundred & Fifty Millions Sterling. If the different Legislatures were to pass Laws, obliging every inhabitant to give a Bond into the State Treasury for Ten per Cent upon ~~the~~ his possessions Real & Personal, payable within Three years after the Ratification of Peace by Congress, the United States would have a solid & substantial fund to the amount of Fifteen Millions Sterling. Paper money issued upon such a fund, I conceive would never depreciate. But in the mean time Estates might be sold, & other property might be transferred from one person, to another. Such Sales & Transfers might be

Ralph Izard, 2 Letters (ex.)
Jan.y 31st 1781

Taxed to the amount of Ten ~~per~~ per Cent; which is
(1389) (~~1021~~)
the case in the Canton of Bern in Switzerland.
I do not think that this plan will be adopted
because I do not think our Countrymen in
general are possessed of public virtue enough
to submit to it. As I firmly believe it
would answer all our purposes, I am sorry
for it. I have the honour to be with
great regard Sir
Your most obt. hble Servt.

Ra.. Izard.

No 102

Richard Henry Lee Esqr.

Copied Letter

(N° 335)

My Dear Sr Philadelphia Sept.r 6th 1780

Yours of the 26th I received last night with a Postscript informing me of Arnolds having bent his force towards your River — if his intentions are really what he has declared them — and he executes them it will heighten the Black of his Character and make it approach to Miltons description of that of Hell a Darkness Visible — But, my Dr Sr, are we to be surprized at these things: have we not been told by the British Commrs as early as — '78 that they wd ravage and lay waste our Towns and Coasts, — and have we made any one preparation for defending ourselves? have we good, strong and well constructed forts at the entrance of all our Rivers, or at least, in the most commanding and narrow Passes of them, with a good Galley or two mounting 36 Dr to flank them? — have we proper boats arranged in case of necessity for throwing men rapidly from one side of the River to the other? have we waggons, Carts, & draught Cattle enrolled to be called out in Classes as the militia are, in case of alarm, to enable an army to take the field and move with speed and convenience? have we a regularly organized Militia of Infantry, Cavalry & artillery, arranged under experienced Genl officers with the superintendance of Arsenals and Magazines erected in convenient Places, sufficient to arm and equip one tenth part of the Militia at a moments warning and march them to a given Point? These precautions I had the honor to propose to the Assembly in May last, through Col. Innis then a Member — they were then thought unnecessary. I have now enacted them to you with the most ardent wish that you whose powers & influence with the next Assembly to have them or some thing

effectual adopted — no stone has been left unturned
to procure the aid you speake of; and I have some
(the fairest) hopes that it is now executing — but I
much fear that we must be much more weakened
before we have effectual aid from that Quarter.

The Revolt of the Pensylvania line is at length
finally terminated, about 1,200 remain in service
but the whole are either discharged or brought
for a short time, that their tumultuary disposition
may subside, and some measures be applied to
a future measure of that sort
The Jersey line followed their Example, but were
suppressed in the Bud of Revolt, a large detachment
march against them, and they were instantly
brought to an unconditional submission. Their
leaders hanged on the Spot, by their followers
and a thorough contrition and return to duty was
the immediate consequence. Those meetings
has had its course and with more subsided but
does not there exist a strong ill animosity on the
minds of every well wisher to his Country that
it is necessary the Citizens of America should turn
their thoughts from Party animosity and
Private gain to replenish the Public Coffers
with the Sinews of War and opposition I can
hardly here help repeating two lines of a verse
Satire that has lately appeared ag.t our Public
measures

"An Army naked, and unpaid,
The Public lean on foreign Aid.

No news Authentic from Europe, but that Portugal
has acceded to the Armed Confederacy, Engl.d
determined to push the War in America, spight of
every other consideration — its Minister has a Gov
-bled House of Commons completely to his Command

Count Vergennes has had some communication with Mr. A. to whom he made advances, respecting even D.r F. - for an explanation of our Act of 40 for one (18 March last) in behalf as he said of the subjects of his master trading to America Mr. A. fully answered, but did not satisfy him in a manly firm and rational manner. the arguments of the latter were so close and conclusive in vindication of the justice and judiciousness of the proceedings of the Councils of America that he soon beat the Chamade, and returned again to the Usual Channels of his communication. not without some marks of displeasure at being so circumstantially foild. - This is all the News from Europe by last Packet. - We have come to a resolution to demand of the States power to lay Duties not exceeding 5 ℔ Ct on all foreign Imports, to raise a fund for a loan for carrying on the war, the necessity of which is apparent, and that the demand be general is not less so - this for this reason only I desire to have the power vested in them to avoid measures & partial impositions. Gen.l Parsons has taken (25 the inst) attacked the Enemies lines at N.Y. Burnt the Huts of Delancys Corps, killd about 100 taken between fifty & sixty Prisoners, destroyd their Bridges of Communication over Harlaem River, burnt their Magazines of forage, and taken two or three Hundred Cattle and Horses with the loss of about 13 killd and as many wounded. I have the Hon.r to be with the very best respects to my friend & Brother Arthur who with Mrs Lee is I expect by this time with you

Yr. most obed.t Servt

Thos. Lee Shippen

The above is a fair and
may be relied on - as the report
has been made to Congress by the Genl.

No 34.

(No 335)

No 34.

208 [illegible] Nov. Count de Grasse to the Hon.ble R.d H. Lee

I hasten, Sir, to transmit you every expression of thankfulness as well for the flattering & obliging expressions you have been pleased to use in the letter with which you honor me, as for the variety provisions & refreshments which you have had the goodness to send me.

I beg you to believe that my greatest regret at quitting this Country will be not having been so happy as to have returned you my thanks for personally & to have made a personal & particular acquaintance with you.

Be pleased, Sir, to testify my gratitude to those of your Countrymen who have been so good as to contribute to the proofs of regard which you have given me, & be assured, Sir, that my gratitude will be as durable as the sincere attachment with which I have the honor to be Y.r most obed.t & Hum.ble Servant

le Comte de Grasse

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je m'empresse, Monsieur, de vous faire passer toutes les expressions de ma reconnoissance, tant au sujet des choses flatteuses et obligeantes que vous voulés bien me dire dans la lettre dont vous m'avés honoré, qu'au sujet des différentes provisions et rafraichissements que vous avés eû la bonté de m'envoyer. Faites moy, je vous prie, l'amitié de croire que mon plus grand regret en quittant ce paragage, sera de n'avoir pas été assés heureux pour vous faire mes remerciments de vive voix et faire avec vous, une connoissance plus nombreuse et particulière.

Chargés vous, s'il vous plait, Monsieur, de présenter les témoignages de ma gratitude, à ceux de vos compatriotes qui ont bien voulu contribuer à la marque d'amitié que vous m'avés donnée, et croyés que la reconnoissance que j'en conserverai sera aussi durable, que l'attachement sincere avec lequel j'ai l'honneur d'être

Monsieur

Votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur.

Le Comte de Grasse

à bord de la Ville de Paris
le 29. 8bre 1781.

Dear General Chantilly feb 7 19th 1781

By this first opportunity I return you my thanks for the most agreeable news that you sent me of our friend Morgans success — I think that affair will give a favorable turn to the southern war — Has general Morgan repeated the dose or have you heard any thing of L. Col. Lees success against George Town?
It has been reported here that Arnolds people have been defeated near Portsmouth, but I fear this news is too good to be true — When first I came here from the Assembly I wrote pressingly to some trusty friends in Congress proposing that they should press for a proper Marine force to come quickly & silently into Chesapeak bay for the purpose of entrapping Arnold & his banditti — One of them writes me by last post, "No stone has been left unturned to procure the aid you speak of, & I have some (tho faint) hopes that it is now exe=cuting" What a fine business it would be to take the whole of these people in a season of their highest confidence! I really think that a command of the Water, with proper exertion on our part ashore would easily effect it —

The same Gentleman writes that Portugal has certainly joined the armed neutrality – that England whose minister had a gabled house of commons was determined to carry on the war against America at all hazards (what Devils they are) & that Gen. Parsons had lately made a successful attack on the enemies lines at N. York, burnt the huts of Delancey's Corps, killed about 100, taken between 50 & 60 prisoners, destroyed their bridges of communication over Harlaem river, burnt their Magazines of Forage, and taken two or 300 head of Cattle & horses, with the loss of only 13 killed & as many wounded. We seem to commence this year well, God send that we may proceed & finish as well. I shall thank you for any Southern news that you may have –

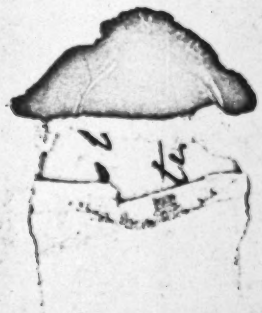
I am dear Genial affectionately
yours
Richard Henry Lee

Remember me to Majr. Bradford

General Weedon

at

Fredericksb.g



My Dear Brother. (№360) Bruxelles F.b. 20. 1781.

The last Letter I rec.d from you was dated in Oct.r 1779. I have no doubt of y.r having written to me by M.r Laurens, all whose papers & letters fell into the Enemies hands, when he was taken himself. I have not rec.d a line from our B.r F. L. L. of later date than in the Summer of 1778, only one from Ellic.e th was soon after he went on the Estate. This I mention, that if they have written they may know the Fate of their Letters. M.r Bondfield by Letter promised to settle your demand against Capt.n Gale, who then continued to command M.r Bondfield's Ship, which I stated to him thus.

Livres cost of the bale of linen at Nantes ——— Livres 227. 13. 0
For Ch.s a.d as Com.n Fr.t In our ordinary stated value of linen in Virg.a 200 £ 855. 6. 8
In the whole 683 Livres which Capt.n Gale ought to pay ——— £ 683 ——

after this promise of M.r Bondfield I waited some months & not being informed of Capt.n Gale having paid the money, I wrote to M.r Bondfield for a positive & explicit answer, whether it was, or was not paid, that in the latter case, Capt.n Gale might be prosecuted for it before he sail'd on another voyage. After some time, M.r Bondfield answer'd, that he could not retain the money from Capt.n Gale, having been obliged to discharge him from his Ship, when there was nothing due to him.

The value of the linen, prime cost in Nantes as above stated, is what I paid M.rs Schweighauser & C.o & your Son, who have been long since happily with you, can prove it to be, being shipt; if all the bills of loading went have miscarried; therefore you must look to Capt.n Gale's security in Virg.a, as I do not know of any mode to get payment in France.

I have not heard from Congress, nor rec.d Letters from any one, relative to discharging the sum due to me for my appointments while in the Public service; but I understand, there are letters on this side which mention, that at the time M.r Izard's appointment was settled & payment of the Ballance ordered in Europe, the consideration & settling of mine was postponed; for what reason I cannot conceive.

I hope no person will think it unreasonable, or in any manner derogating from M.r Izard's merit, if I desire only to be put on the same ground with him, for the mine was an active

active, laborious & expensive employment, I make no particular claim for having done my duty to my Country & Principals in the best manner I was capable of. Mr. Izard, (besides the satisfaction of an Unanimous Vote of Congress approving his Conduct) was allowed for Expences 1600 Louisdors ff. An: & near 500 Louisdors ff. An. for Salary. On the same footing my demand will stand thus: To expences from the 1st. of Oct. 1777, when my service began as Commissioner, to the 13th. of Jan. 1780, being 8 Months after receiving the notification of my recall, at 400 Louisdors ff. An: is in Livres ..... £18000.—

To Salary for the above period @ 11428 Livres ff. An. ..... 26189.—

£114189

Deduct 3000 Louisdors I rec. from my Com.rs at Paris ..... 72006.

Leaves a Balce due to me from Congress of ..... £42189—

I do not know the name of a single deligate now in Congress from Virginia, for many changes having taken place in that body that I do not know a single person there who would be proper & willing to get this business settled for me, therefore I must rely entirely on your kindness to get it negotiated for me if possible, to get a draft on some part of Europe remitted to me for the Ballance. I have written often to Congress on the subject, but they have either not rec., or not answerd my letters that I know of. I have no doubt you will answer me on this subject as soon as you can & by repeated opportunities, which (which you may do in such a manner as to be unintelligible to the Enemy, should their your Letters fall into their hands. Our Br. A. L. have a Cypher that you can use, if necessary.

Yourself & Gov.r Jefferson were frequently advised during the last summer & I hope not without effect, of the determination of the British Cabinet to bend their greatest force against the two Carolinas & Virg.a — After the taking of Cha.s Town, particularly after the battle of Camden, in their usual style of wisdom, they fully expected by January last, to be in compleat possession of the Carolinas & part of Virginia, as far as the confines of Jas. River at least, & that this campaign would be crowned with the conquest of the remaining part of Virg.a, Maryland & Pensylvania.

At present however they have determined not to send any fresh

troops

troops to Amᵃ for this Campaign, indeed we know they have not any to send, therefore 'tis unreasonable to imagine, that weakened as they were in last Campaign, & before they have made in Amᵃ, can not advance much in the way of Conquest, but America will be unstable if she does not make a proper use of this favorable moment & by a vigorous exertion drive the Enemy intirely off the Continent. A very fine French Fleet of 25 Sail of the Line, will sail from Brest in a few days, its true destination is not publicly known, some say to N. Amᵃ & others say to the W. Indies, but where ever it goes, it ought to fall heavily, & by a push blow at once finish the War, for the English have not an adequate force to oppose it. Regard to Gibraltar, the whole Army of Spain are still encamping there with the view of Gibraltar, where there is only a Garrison of abt. 2000 Men.—

Your Minister at Madrid is no more than a private Gentleman, Engl. has there two publicly known Agents, Mr. Cumberland Sec. of the board of Trade & Mr. Hussey an Irish Priest, who confer with the S. Ministers & act in the honorable Capacity of Spies, tho they are not publicly rec. as Ministers. The British declaration of War agt. the Dutch, was the 20 Dec., since which, above 100 Dutch Merchantmen have been taken, an expedition is now publicly sailing from Portsmo. agt. their E. India settlements, orders have been long since sent to attack the W. I. Islands; to all which, the Dutch have only replyed by a proclamn. that they will grant letters of marque & reprisals agt. the English, but as yet, there is no Manifesto, nor a single Dutch man of War or Privateer at Sea, tho the Winter has been remarkably open & the Coast of England from the Thames quite to the Orkneys have been totally defenceless. Be not surprized at this, there are Rascals and Parricides in other places besides Amer., but if I mistake not, before the summer ends, the English will severely repent, their attacking the Dutch. 'Tis not known yet whether Russia, Sweden & Denmark will immediately enter into the War agt. England, but they are well known to have expressed high indignation at her conduct agt. Holland. The Emperor is at present determined to remain quite neuter, if the English will let him do so, but they are every day seizing & plundering the vessels of his subjects, in the same Piratical manner as they have done those of other nations. The K. of P. will, I think, as heretofore, continue our Friend in the Cabinet, 'tis therefore to be regretted that Congress has let him remain

10

Wm Lee 4 R.H.L.

(No 360) (~~No 245~~) Feb. 20th 1781

colonies negotiated, especially at this critical moment, when the great advantage is so evident that America might obtain from having Ministers at almost every Court in Europe, whether they were publicly rec.d as such or not. —— On the whole, I am clearly of opinion, that a General Peace, in within this year, can become unexpected & unforeseen occurrences in Asia should happen, that may induce the K. of G. Britain to give up every thing else wherein to persue obtaining his favorite object, the subjugation of America. —— You have the Game therefore in your own hands. —— We shall always happy to hear from you, particularly on such points as most materially concern ourselves. Remember us kindly to all your Family & shall at Monticello & believe me most sincerely & affectionately Yrs &c. Carter

1781

No 245

(4)

Via France.

Pine Level (No 361) Fredericksburg Feby 27th.
1781.

My dear Cole.

I last night returned from Chesterfield just before ayers Jam. by the Dns. came to hand. Our Friend the Col. by perseverance against George Town was successfull, he Carried the place by Assault and Plundering put the whole Garrison to the Sword, (Officers excepted) this by the bye. — Gen. Green writes "few were taken and many killed". — Two other posts have been Carried since, in which were many Stores; 30 prisoners were made at one of them, the other was more Considerable. — While Col. Lee & Col. Marion are breaking up the different posts in L. Cornwallaces rear, he immediately on Tarletons defeat, distroy'd all his heavy Baggage, (Cowpens) Mounted every Horse he could collect and like one seized with a phrenzy pursued after Morgan to recover his Prisoners. That old Soldier by a rapid march, Gained the Yadkin, over

which he threw his Troops and Stores, his Artillery getting up in a few hours after was stopped by a sudden rise of that river as if providence Designed it,— before he could cross, Gen.l Morgan had taken care for their security which is now happily effected. he afterwards formed a junction with Gen.l Greene at Guilford Court House, where they were the 19th. Inst. Cornwallace at that Date had penetrated as far as the Moravian Towns which is not more than 50 Miles from Chiselles Mines.— Gen.l Greene not being able to fight him has fallen back saving all his Stores, I hope by this his hands is Strengthened as positive Orders were sent the 18th to the Counties of Botetourt, Washington Montgomery & Montgomery to march with a reinforcement of 1000 of their best Riflemen and I understood as I returned that all the Counties were in Motion so that I have full Expectations his Lordship will Catch a Tartar.— a Gen.l Friend in Congress is not out in his Conjecture, a 64 and 2 Frigates have arrived from Rhode Island.

If nothing Surprizing is attacked from above
quarter, I hope we shall be able to Co-operate
to Effect, but can you believe Mr Arnold
was no Stranger to their coming before the
Baron was informed of it; he has drawn
all his piratical Crew together in Elizabeth
River, and is himself about with his
Gastoings at Portsmouth. The Baron has
sent me back to assemble, and arrange the
men from the Neighbouring Counties Lee
with whome I expect to march in a short
time for Service below. My Letters from the
Northward contain a very Interesting
Narrative of Parsons has made a Successful descent,
but I fear not so important as a one month
however it will count in the Campaign of 1781
which is Certainly our Year. —

I am My dear Col. with
high Esteem & Regd &c. Most
Ob. Servt. G. Weedon

G. Weedon Letter
22nd Feb. 1781

No. 447.

Gen Weedon

(1964)

20 March 1781

Sir

The Courts of Petersburg & Vienna have entered the list as Mediators to a General peace we are advised 1st Joseph York is already on his route as Minister from England. Chaircel from France & the Congress to be held at Vienna. Mr John Laurens is at Paris we have not yet had the particulars of his introduction we give little Credit under the present prospects that the contending parties can be reconciled. England has not yet met with a check in her Career so as to oblige her to assent to the pretensions of the different powers at war. This campaign may possibly change the Scene — I am without the favor of a line from you since Your arrival at Philadelphia by my last I transmitted you the papers up to that date this going via Boston I have only to add that I am with

Philadelphia
Arthur Lee Esq.

Bordeaux 24 Febry 1781

2a

Sir

above is copy of what I had the pleasure to write you the 1 Nov. last, since which you will have received the interesting advice of the rupture between Holland & England. the Dutch wait the returns from the different courts which ere this must most of them arrived, we shall then see their answer to the manifest and tho' letters of marque & commissions are issued to take dutch property no declaration of war as is usual has yet appeared. it is given out Russia has offerd her mediation, mattters are not yet ripe for a cessation, in the mean time Holland is exerting her utmost efforts to equip a fleet for the opening season, if Holland can prepare 30 or 35 Sail of the line without leaving the Texel will employ an equal force of the British navy to observe them and thereby give liberty to the combined fleets of Bourbon to act without opposition where and as they please, The 6th inst. in consequence of advices received that England had ordered a fleet to relieve Gibraltar the Spanish fleet consisting of 30 Sail of the line Sailed out of the Bay of Cadiz and are cruizing off Cape St Vincent to intercept them.

respect & Attachment

Sir your very Hble Servt

J. B.

The Brest Fleet destined for America composed of 25 of the line are to be at Sea the 21 of next month to what part of america they are destined is not known. France opened a loan for 67 millions last week which was Subscribed as soon as opened. the Funds in England since the declaration against Holland have sunk 3 p C. their affairs in the east indies have received a Shock, and its Success will meet with great Changes in the course of the year. Mr. Laurens remains prisoner in the Tower, all or great part of his papers are published, by which many Houses in Holland are comprehended, one good which is very essential, his capture has been productive. the British Council found their honour so deeply wounded that the step to take admitted of no [redacted]tigation; & thereby brought on the resolution of immediately declaring open war. the Dutch were not prepared, they have lost upwards of 400 Sail merchant men many of them rich, but as the Harvest is at an end at the opening of the navigation Holland will have upwards of 40 privateers at Sea the East country trade to England in british bottoms will be entirely broke up, should the neutral powers take part with Holland which is credited, England has no resource for naval Stores, but from the Captures sent in, which must be very precarious & small proportioned to the Consumption, if the northern

Nations shut up their ports two years, England must sue for peace, their funds have always been too bare to admit make provision of Naval Stores in the arsenals for any term and from what has been collected of their stock it is assured there is not twelve months provision at Portsmouth Plymouth or Chatham, what may be in private hands may supply twelve months more, but the prices will require enormous sums of money or credit to obtain, both which it may be presumed will fail them.

Two or three mails going from the eastward to Phila. & from Philad^a. to the Eastward have been intercepted and carried to New York. the letters taken have been transmitted to England, and have employed the Gazetteers on this side, we are sorry to see two of your's, wherein you observe some rest of the old Seven remains in the Grand Council, this and other flattering hopes the Enemy collect keep afloat the ideas of the unknowing multitude that discussion and Cabal will eventually break up the Confederation. Deane Bancroft De Chaumont are greatly exasperated at the resolution of Congress of March last by which the Golden Mountains of the Emperors are reduced to a level with their fleurs, their language conveys all they can invent to express y^r resentment.

I am just from Paris and have been present to certain very unbecoming from them. de Chaumont has been in difficulties. he is again on foot by the assistance of his Ct. who I am told took off his hands a charge of 300000 ℔ to lay on the shoulders of the A-n I-s

The marquis de Lafayette the Ship I mentioned to you chartered to transport the cloathing provided by Williams sailed from hence the beginning of this month and is now at Lorient, where she is to take on board all that is there deposited. I suspect that Ship will be a compound of misery and if lost will carry to the shades what will not admit of being scrutinized. Dacosta's House have refused acceptance of Bills drawn by Mr. Polock of new orleans by order of the State of Virginia. the State of Virginia must have built on imaginary sands or deceived by the promises of the House at Nantes; they certainly would not expose their Credit in so prejudiced a light without grounds of honour being given to their orders. I hope soon to receive remittances from the state for our freights. I have been obliged to withdraw my action that I lodged against the proceeds of the Tobacco in their hands as they have assured us the State of Virginia are

indebted to them a considerable sum. you have
inclosed Copy of their answer to our claim made by
Mr. Schweighauser which you will please to lay
before the Council if opportunity offers. all these
transactions greatly tell against the operations which
that State and others who wish to negotiate in Europe.
it appears to me singular that so many thousand dollrs
of Virginia must be in advance to the States general
for supplies to the army above their quota that they dare
secure bills on the different ministers which Congress
draw and thereby relieve themselves from this infamous
state of dependence on private Credit so inadequate
to the sum in which it ought to be supposed a
rich State might act. if the real exigences of the
States require 20 millions levying four millions more
to be laid out in the Purchase of Bills to provide
for the goods wanted from Europe would not be
so burthensome a tax. the State would then be
master to employ her funds in useful articles as
her choice, and not be forced to purchase of
Beaumarchais & others at horrid advances the
despicable goods they occasionally ship as their
Credit enables them to procure and that at extravd
advances its grating to see with every means to
obtain the best the most clogg'd practices pursued
believe me to be Sincerely Your very hble Servt.
Sir J. B.

The Com.ee to whom were referred Let.r Rec.ts & other Papers relative to
Debts from the Com.th to the G. Cong. have had the same under con-
sideration & come to the following Resp.n

That y.e Com.ee have examined the Rec.ts of the H.ble P. H.
T. L. L. Jun.r J. J. H. W. T. Ja.s M. Ja.s Mad. F. N. W. T. & E. R. & find
them fairly stated & fully reconcile

That some of the Debts. lately in C. have as yet returned
Rec.ts

It also appears to y.e Com.ee y.t when the Hon.ble Mary
Ann L. left C. the 29.th Sep.r 1779 he was indebted
the public £846-/14. that on the 18.th Dec.r foll.g having
signed his seat in C. being elected a Member of y.e Privy
Council he settled an Acct on Oath with the Auditors for
the whole of his Subsistence while at C. travell.g expences
going & returning amount.g in the whole to £3740, 8.7. & for
for w.ch sum he obtained an Auditors warrant bearing date
the said 18.th Dec.r 1779 — thus drawing out of y.e Treasury
£3740, 8.7 N.C. at the time that he was indebted to the Pub.c
in near £5000 w.ch circumstance it does not appear
by his Acct. settled w.th the Auditors y.t he made known
to them at time of such settlem.t

Whereupon y.e Com.ee came to y.e following
Resol.n that it is the opinion of this Com.ee y.t y.e said
M. L. is guilty of a misapplication of y.e Pub. money
& y.t he ought to be forthwith called from C. to answer
for such misapp.n

The House directed the Speaker to write to M.r L.
to explain his Acct & Lad.p recall his explanation
of March Sess.s 1781. they ordered him to be called to ex-
plain them personally to the next House

Copy of Gov.r Lowther's Let.r
to Gov.r Jones

The Hon.ble the Speaker / Philadelphia 26.th Feb.y 1781

Sir I am honored with y.r Excell.cy Let.r dat.d Richmond 20.th Dec.r
last enclos.g Rep.t & Resol.n of a Com.ee appointed to exam-
ine y.e Acct of y.e Delig.s to C. & the expenditure of y.e Pub. Money
drawn by y.e late Gov.r of C. Treasury, shewing a Ballance of £846, 14. 4
due, for whose credit I am given when I settled my Acct with y.e Rec.r
I received a warrant for £3740, 8.7. w.ch conduct you inform
me is considered by the H. of D. to be unwarrantable and

highly reprehensible shall enable me to [illegible] your immediate expulsion of yr. whole matter. In obedience to this order Sir I cannot in any the manner satisfy the H. of D. so well as by transmitting to yr. an exact Acct of my Expenditure for Sept. 1778 to Nov. 1780 during all which time I have been honored with yr. further confidence in office. They will at one view the whole of my conduct & may from thence form a judgt. respecting my motives & views I have mind, & I trust yr. to every unprejudiced mind, the rectitude of my intentions in all things relating to the public interest will manifestly appear. At the same time I assure yr. I feel myself but little concerned about the result of public enquiry into my conduct, knowing yr. fullest confidence of justice & candor of yr. H. of D. whatever may be the event I am prepared to meet it with fortitude & realous perseverance in a cause of yr. public wch. have hitherto distinguished my conduct & supported me amidst every species of persecution from a man, who from the duplicity of his conduct, & the self-interested motives by wch. I discovered him to be actuated, forfeited the good opinion I had before entertained of him & ought to have lost the public confidence. It is yr. portion of humanity to err. I may have erred in this matter but my conscience tells me - altho I did not expect a meeting & consequently am not prepared to attend, at Sept. next, I feel myself happy in the reflection that this business may be conducted to a final period in the presence & on wch. it was first agitated. I shall therefore briefly relate the reasons wch. have influenced my conduct, & submit it to the H. When I had the honor to be appointed a D. to C. I expected to find a suitable provision for the Subsistence of the D. of P. at Philadelphia. In this expectation I did not think it necessary to make any further provision than was sufficient for my private expences, wch. I am fully did. I embarked on board a vessel with my Servt. & Baggage & proceeded by the way of the head of Elk & P. intending to provide means for returning & Virginia by Land, from the funds I had carried with me. Upon my arrival I found it necessary to employ my money I had for my immediate subsistence until it was exhausted. When this happened I had recourse in common with other D. of P. of funds raised by the security of yr. St. by drawing from the Treasury from time to time. This was indiscriminately practised by every Delegate on the union. The D. of Va. felt the necessity & for making & concurred in the measure. These funds were appropriated with their knowledge & consent. No member was refused when he required on application. The rapid depreciation & consequent expence of living rendered money scarce in my pockets of yr. D. If I expended more than came of yr. I deemed it necessary to enable me to serve my State, [illegible] & expected & pay every extra Expence. I could have expended 4 p if I had lived in a Garret, & fed myself under mean & degrading for meetings. It neither accorded with my feelings as a gentleman, or was consistent with the honor or interest of the State I represented. By pursuing a contrary method, I sought & information & I found it. I was enabled to detect the schemes & [illegible]

the duty of designing a [illegible] sentence of your [illegible] publick I am fully convinced he [illegible] of receiving the publick money in the hands of its servants by secret connections in commerce, views to self [illegible] both authority & talents, in my judgment had been frustrated by those who were beginning to reap the fruit of your labors. When I found it necessary to return to Virginia, of means to enable me become also necessary. The money I had provided for this purpose would have been amply sufficient had it been employed according to my intention. I represented my [illegible] to my colleagues, settled the accounts of the Department in debt the sum of £8467.14.4 by retaining of the bills in hand, & even if I did not return was to have been remitted to the Board as soon as provided, who would have [illegible] occasion for the money as I had resolved to make no further advances to the Department out of the State. With this view therefore upon my assignment on settling my electing property in lieu of Wages I received a warrant on the Treasury for the sum of £9710, 0.7 that by adding the interest thereto, restitution might be made as intended, & a full discharge received from the Delegates of the persons on the Books, no adjustation being in my opinion requisite on either side at that time. I did not mention these circumstances to the Legislature because I thought it absolutely foreign to the business of the Board to have required a warrant for no more than was due to me from the Treasury of the State. It is impossible to suppose I could have intended any injury to the State by a misapplication of public money in a transaction which was regularly & openly conducted, which could be stopped at the request of every, & which in the event manifestly proved that I did not reap any advantage from the transaction. The reason of my seeming neglect I shall explain.

When I returned to my House on the 23d of Decr. the inclemency of winter, & the disorder which my domestic concerns had been thrown into, put it out of my power to go abroad & to transact any business 'till the latter end of Feby at which time I received information from various quarters of the Honble R. H. Lee had thrown out some insinuations to my prejudice respecting the payment of my expenses & misapplication of public money as a Delegate to Congress, during his personal enmity towards me, & that of many others dependant upon him, I determined without delay that the whole transaction should undergo a public scrutiny which I had reason to believe was the design of the Gentlemen & resolved not to settle the Balance with the Delegates 'till the precise value of the debt should be ascertained. For this reason it was that the State was credited by interest on a sum which was unapplied in my hands 'till the time the debt was transferred to the Board & considered as so much advanced on account of my Delegation with the

Va. Assembly about Mr. Smith's
pis dismissal 25 Feb. 1784.

[illegible] joind on that acct. with the [illegible]
[illegible] to be explained, & beg leave [illegible]
[illegible] by payg. the interest with which [illegible]
money remains in my hands, & by returning [illegible]
[illegible] recd. if an allowance for depreciation under these circum-
stances shd. be judged requisite a point wch. I did not think to
determine, or by payg. the money into the hands of the Delegates
[illegible] subject to any censure for having avoided myself what
might be supposed an advantage to me. For I believe it
will not be difficult to satisfy every one concerned, that dur-
ing every period during that time there commenced doubt-
ful on my part to discharge that demand. I did expect
this matter wd. have been enquired into, in a way less
liable to a direct & open charge; but I have met with many
different natures, & became well acquainted with [illegible] mode in
which this enquiry was to be made. I have been silent, & de-
termined that the Gentlemen who played behind the Cur-
tain & who perhaps claims merit from a discovery have
[illegible] their own means for his own ends. I wish only that he had
been more speedy in this business. What he had made
this charge more openly, since he has been so long pos-
sessed with the materials.

I shall now account for what I have written &
of Dr. the Their determinations. I only beg leave to add that
[illegible] one day merited, & appear — that I stood [illegible]
[illegible] in my own County, who defended the rights of
[illegible] that I have been faithfully employed & employ'd in the
service of my Country ever since the commencement of
the present Dispute with G. Britain. That my zeal & integrity
in serving America have led me into measures [illegible]
[illegible] my private interest, my confidence in this [illegible]
the fairest subjects one & 40 of several thousand pounds
[illegible] sphere. Under all those circumstances I cannot finally
[illegible], that have I never solicited any appointment whatever
[illegible] recd any emolument equal to my expences, I shall
[illegible] myself happy whenever my Country shall
[illegible] to inform me, that they have no further oc-
casion for my Services.

I have &c &c

Signd W. Smith

From Letter Book of Governor and Council No 3.
for the years 1780 to 1787.

1 Letter to Lafayette

Sir,

In Council 3. March 1781.

We have the Honor to transmit the enclosed letter, this Moment received from Colo Gouvin. We have ordered all the Vessels at Baltimore and in this port to be impress=ed and sent to the Head of Elk to transport the detach=ment under your Command, and have directed six hundred barrels of Bread to be forwarded in them. This State will most chearfully make every exertion to give force and Efficacy to the present important Expedition by every Measure in our power.

Marquis Fayette.

1.st letter

D. Sir,

Mar 3 - 81
(N° 340)

My particular acquaintance Col. Heth of the 3d Virginia Continental regiment has promis'd to be the Bearer of this, by which I can say little more than to assure you of my regards, and refer you to him to answer any enquiries you may be pleas'd to make relative to my situation. I shall also take the occasion to inform you that I have not found that the arts and aspersions of your personal enemies and calumniators have procur'd any credit to themselves, or any prejudice to your character among the people of this Country.

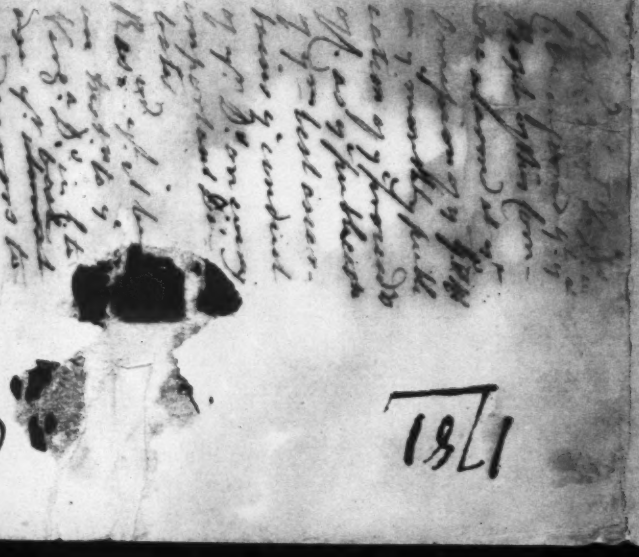
I beg leave to introduce Col. Heth to you, whose merit both private and professional, intitle him to particular esteem. I have the honor to remain D. Sir

With the highest Esteem
Yr. sincere frd & hble Servt
J. Pringle

Chas. Town
So. Carolina
3 March 1781.

Pringle

The Honble
Arthur Lee Esqr
to the care of The Honble
Richd Henry Lee Esq
in Virginia



1781

(9 o'clock)

L. Pringle (S.C.)
March 3d 1781

1 Nov 348,

Edm. S. Pleasants (No. 362) Fredericksburg March 3d. 81

My dear Sir.

From a thorough knowledge of the goodness of your Soul, as well as from the fair Opinion I know you have in every thing that Concerns our implacable Enemy, snatch a moment to communicate a piece that I am sure will most wonderfully elate you. — Count de Estaing fell in with a Fleet of the British line, 6 Frigates and a large Fleet of Transports of the W. Islands; he has taken 6 of the former, 3 Frigates, and 25 Transport Ships!

This comes from the War Office in Boston to the Delegates in Congress for Massachusetts Bay. Mr. Henson & Mr. Carroll Members for Maryland sends Copies of the Letters to Governor Lee, from whom we got it last Night. It comes from so good Authority cant help handing it to you not doubting in the least of its being Authentick, as we had certain Accounts of De-Estaing's being in the West Indies with a powerful Fleet and 9000 Land Forces. — will

not this Strike count largly towards a Coup-de-
: Grace? — I have been kept here in a very
disagreeable Situation, waiting for the Landown
& Saugeen Militia, They have at last begun their
march, and hope to be on my west towards the
Lower Posts in two or three Days more.

Jam D. S. with high Esteem
& Regd. Ayes affectionately

G Macdon

PS. Compliments to all Friends,
Act like a warlike & Independent
Nation, and all is our own, think
not of money, at Liberty be the
Predominate Idea. ——

GM.

Gl Weedon letter
3d March 1781

[No. 362]

[illegible]

B.04448

D.r S.r (No 362) Philadelphia March 5th 1781

We have been for some days past in the most impatient expectation of hearing, that the Virtue and ardor of our Countrymen had put a stop to the Progress of Cornwallis, and a period to his handfull of men — in which that adventurous Knight Errand had dared to traverse the Southern States, and (as if bidding defiance to our Patriotism and Courage) has with three or four thousand thrown down the Gauntlet to forty three thousand at least, who are nearer to him than he is to any support. Good God! Shall it be said that this man has dared to Venture near three Hundred miles from the Sea Coast and above two Hundred from any of his Posts and shall be permitted again to return! I can not believe it — It is said we want Arms — has not every Peasant in Virginia & North Carolina a Gun? with what weapons were the Battles of Bunkers Hill Bennington and Kings mountain fought? But I will not dwell on a subject which affords so much Chagrin. I will suppose that the Spirit of America has again roused and that Saratoga is avenged at the Cowpens. I have been unwearied in my applications for a Maritime force from Rhode Island and should in my last have informed you that I had at last obtained it through the French Ministry — but was afraid to trust it to paper as it was so profound a secret that no one in Philadelphia except him & myself knew it was said until we had reason to expect it had arrived — Altho it had not all the desired effect it has at least been serviceable in harrassing

about eleven Hundred Stand of Arms, some consider-
=ble Qty of Cloathing, Medicines & military Stores,
which were intended for Virginia, but taken, retaken
and carried in to Rhode Island - which was done at
the request of the delegates - I can also assure you
as a truth to be depended on that on their return
to Rhode Island the French Squadron has taken
the British Ship of War the Romulus - two large
Privateers & eight other Vessels, which with
five hundred Prisoners are safely arrived in Rhode
Island. - and before this arrives you will undoubted-
=ly (without a Disaster accident) be reinforced by
1000 Chosen Regular troops under the Command
of the Marquis de la fayette - a British Ship of
the line which was missing in the late Storm is
returned to Gardners Bay - where met the two
fleets on an equal footing & Command in the
Judgement of the French Commt. rendered it ne-
cessary to recall their Ships from our Bay.

— The Confederation was Signed and
completely ratified on Thursday last, and was
accompanied with every demonstration of Joy
by all ranks of People in this place
I thought I had acknowledged the Rect. of
yrs enclosing Col: Masons Sentiments - I have
little doubt of the Grants being agreed by
Congress on the terms mentiond in the
act of Cession which I see nearly corresponds
with those in that Paper. I believe the covert
manauvres of the land Jobbing Companies
are so well known, and so fully discovered, that
few of their abettors will be hardy enough

to oppose it in its fullest latitude. [Congress seems at this time more Unanimous, and less torn by factions than (from the best information I can obtain from the best Members) it has ever been since its first meeting.] I am clearly of opinion if the Intelligence you give of the hostility of the British against the danish Ships be true, that the next Spring may not=sold the Danish of the armed neutrality in their fullest extent and that Britain's Sun of Glory will set in the ocean never to rise again we have a report which comes from the Havan=nah, Martinique, & Hispaniola to Boston in short Passages that D'Estaing has taken six of Admiral Hoods Squadron of the line & three frigates & forty five of his convoy for the West Indies. — This is all the news at present — you will be pleased to offer my respects to your Brother Arthur, from whom I have in vain expected a letter for some time past. — I am happy to hear he is well. [we are informed that the Assembly has voted three Pounds Virginia Currency a day for the delegates. if so — I can assure you it will bring such as have families and live in any manner suitable to their Station, with the utmost economy above one Hundred Pounds p Annum in debt, exclu=sive of traveling home once a year which is a recess from business.] I think not unreasonable I hope by the next Post to have my acct. of expenditures made out ready to be laid before the Assembly — adieu & believe me to be D.r D.r

Most obt. Sr

Thos.n Bland

Richd. Henry Lee Esqr.

Delegate to the Assembly

Richmond

Virginia

Free

Thos. Ashby Stanard

Esqr.

Col. T. Blackwell

Mar. 15 35

Hon. Judge Tucker

Hon. to be Favd

2. Letter to Governor Jefferson.

In Council 7th March 1781.

Sir

The Marquis Fayette has requested this State to furnish armed Vessels for the protection of the transports and troops under his command, and destined for the expedition against the Enemy at Portsmouth. We have only been able to procure a Brig of fourteen four pounders and a Schooner of eight three pounders, and a Sloop loaded and bound to Sea of ten three pounders. From various Accounts we are appre=hensive this Force is inferior to the Enemies Privateers in the Bay. We have wrote to the Commander of the Ships of our Ally at the Capes and if he cannot spare one of his

his Vessels to convoy the Marquis you will see the necessity of your States immediately procuring a Force, which in Conjunction with ours, would certainly be superior to the Enemies Cruisers. The Marquis with the Troops Cannon and Stores are now at the Head of Elk. We have impressed and sent to him every Vessel at Baltimore and this place, and fear they will not be sufficient. The Marquis has requested us to procure Boats to land the Cannon and Troops, which will not be in our power, but we hope you will be able to obtain any number he may want.

General Wayne with a second detachment from the Pennsylvania line is soon expected at the Head of Elk, and he is to join the Marquis as soon as Vessels can be procured to transport him to Portsmouth. We have thought proper to give you this information and at the same time beg leave to suggest the propriety of your strengthening the Convoy —

Governor of Virginia }

3. Letter to Governor Jefferson.

In Council 15th March 1781.

Sir,

The arrival of our express with your Excellency's letter of the 12th this Moment received give us an Opportunity of informing you that all the transports with the Troops from Elk got safe into Harbour on Tuesday evening. The next Morning at day light two Ships apparently British of the rate of eighteen and twenty

(Guns)

Guns came to an Anchor opposite to the Mouth of our River Severn, at 12 O'Clock they made sail up the Bay and by the last Account were at Anchor near the [redacted] north point of the River Patapsco. We judged that you would be anxious for the Safety of the Troops but they are fortunately safe and the Armed Vessels which Con=voyed them are prepared for Defence [redacted]

Governor Jefferson
(Extract)

Paris le 8 mars 1781

Je profite, monsieur, de l'occasion du depart d'un de Leurs pour vous Ecrire. Il passe avec une flotte dont une partie est destinée pour vous. Je souhaite qu'elle ait des Vents et que cette Guerre y finisse enfin. [illegible] avons que Je ne crois pas que ce soit encore si tôt. [illegible]ration de Hollandois ne peut qu'augmenter infiniment l'embarras de la marine d'angleterre. C'est que cette dernière puissance a accepté la mediation de la Russie sur ses querelles avec la Hollande. cette mediation est une suite necessaire de la convention de la neutralité armée. il doit conduire à rendre le commerce de toute espece libre aux hollandois ou à une rupture avec la Russie. Sans quoy elle manqueroit entierement aux engagemens solemnels qu'elle a pris à la face de toute l'Europe. nous allons voir comment tout cela se passera. cet été y va être curieux. Je pourrai bien aller le passer en Hollande. mr John Adams y est resté, comme vous savez. nous avons icy mr Searle et mr Dana. avec qui j'ay eu l'honneur de dîner une fois quelqu'un m'a dit qu'on attendoit le fils de mr Laurens l'ancien president du Congrès. vous savez mieux que moy pourquoy il a été envoyé.

J'ay répondu exactement à toutes les lettres que j'ay reçues de vous, je l'ay fait par duplicata qui ont été

Envoyés par un contre seing a mr Bondfield a Bordeaux
Le pruvoyage n'a pas pu aller plus loin.

Les gazettes vous aprendront que le 27 du mois dernier il
y eut dans les parcs de Versailles un Combat entre deux
Dogues de forte taille et un Sanglier. Le combat fut
vif. un effet bien singulier de cette tempete en a été
renversé la Grille de fer qui Separe la Grande cour de
Versailles de celle que l'on nomme la Cour d'Honneur.

Les
mr de Lelompe part demain. Il faut que je lui remette ma
lettre tout a l'heure. On parle depuis quelques Jours d'un congrés
a vienne et on dit que Sir Joseph yorke en nommé pour s'y
rendre. Vous Saves qu'on negotie toujours longtems avant de
faire la paix. Les Evenemens de la campagne feront plus que
toutes les negociations en attendant le premier Emprunt de
60 millions qu'a fait mr Necker a été rempli si promptement
qu'il vient d'en ouvrir un de 30 millions a un p^{c} d'interet
d'interet. Je doute que Lord North trouve les mêmes facilités.
Tous nos Emprunts Sont a rentes viageres. Si nous avions
toujours Emprunté de même, l'Etat ne seroit pas obéi comme
il l'est.

Adieu Monsieur vous connoissez mon sincere attachement

Sir

In Council Mar. 9. 1781.

The Executive were informed during the last summer or Fall that the Accomack & Diligence gallies were deserted by officers & men, and left open to be plundered of their guns and furniture. orders were immediately given to Commodore Barron to arrest the officers, & have the men sought for & taken, one of the gallies brought round to the Bayside of the Eastern shore & manned with the same men & the other to be brought to the Western shore to be repaired. the bay being infested with priveteers at that time prevented the immediate execution of the orders, and the subsequent invasions which took place in October & December have continued the interruption of our intercourse with that shore. in the mean time we learn that the vessels have been much plundered and their hulls so injured as to render it doubtful whether worth repairing. we have taken & shall continue to pursue measures for punishing those who have thus abused the publick, and recovering indemnification: but should it be most expedient to dispose of the hulls, the sanction of the General assembly, if they approve of it, would be necessary. I have the honor to be with great respect Sir

your most obed. humble sert.

W. Fleming

The honble

Richard Henry Lee

Speaker of the

House of Deleget

Mar 9 1781

Admiralty Office 16th March 1781

Among other questions asked Capt. Jones, under the direction of Congress, is the following with his answer—

Quer. Was money furnished by the Court of France to the Minister Plenipo. of these States to enable him to procure cloathing, and military Stores, & c. whom did he employ in that Business. If not, how were the Cloathing and military Stores procured, & by whom, and to whom were committed the Charge of shipping the same to America

Ans. I know the Marquis de la Fayette took much pains to obtain Cloathing, and Stores from government. I never understood that the funds for such purchase, was put into the hands of the Ministers Plenipo. of these States. The Arms and Powder came directly from the Kings Manufactories. I understood Mr le Ray de Chaumont was principally concerned in the purchase of cloathing, and that he employed Mr Williams of Nantes, who drew his Bills on Mess.rs Ray de Chaumont & Foundery Jeances, but I am unable to say whether Mr le Ray de Chaumont, or those named charged, Profit for cloathing and Stores for America, Mr Samuel Wharton who was at Passy, and intimate both with Mr Franklin and Mons.r Ray de Chaumont, when the purchase of Cloathing was made, and is now here, can I believe give a satisfactory answer respecting that transaction."

As Congress are exceedingly desirous of obtaining every possible information respecting the cloathing and Military Stores, procured in France for these States: and with this view, several gentlemen have been written to on the subject who have very candidly communicated to the Board in writing what they knew of this matter; and as Capt. Jones has particularly referred us to you, we don't doubt but that you will with the same candour give us in writing

to publickly deny information in your hands —

We would wish to have an answer as soon as may
conveniently, Congress being anxious for our resolves,
we are &c.

True copy from the
Original A Lee

Saml Wharton Esqr

In Council, March 10. 1781.

at the request of Major General Baron Reuben expressed in the inclosed letter, I take the liberty of laying it before you. The number of Militia necessary to be recalled into the field, and time of their being there we begged the Baron to advise. He did so. Apprehending deficiencies we ordered a considerably larger number. As soon as we received the letters informing us of the deficiencies from New Kent, and desertions from Cabin point, fording, that with those of Dinwiddie the number would be reduced below what he desired, we ordered 350 from the counties of Chesterfield and Dinwiddie.

The time fixed by the Baron, for the first reinforcement was the 6th instant, our orders were that they should be there on the 5th or 6th at furthest, they were not there it seems on the 7th.

A Number of Horse were required for special purposes. we furnished the Quarter-

Master with the impressing seamen. He applied for
militia to aid him in the execution of the powers.
We knew that an armed force to impress horses,
as every unnecessary as it was new. The fact has
been, that our citizens so far from requiring an
armed force for this purpose, have reacted with
their Horses too easily by delivering them to
every man who said he was riding on public
business, and assumed a right of impressing.
When therefore the militia have on their
own Hands a appearance of real call to duty, we
did not think proper to harrass them in cases
where we had reason to believe they were not
invited by the Quarter Master as Militia but as
servants. It was mentioned to the Quarter Mast.
that in our opinion he could and should do
but little in this neighborhood, and that of
Petersburg, which had been drained by
constant impresses; nevertheless we furnished
him with blank powers to be executed

where he pleased. ——

. I have the honor to be with very great
respect Sir

your most obed.t

——————————————————————

& most humble serv.t

W. Johnson

Governor Letters
March 1801

My dear Sir

Extracts from the Answers of Capt. J. Paul Jones to the Admiralty at Philadelphia March 13th 1781.

Perhaps Mr Schweighauser had Mr W. Lee's appointment confirmed by the Commissioners, for his Deputy & found the Agency at L'Orient, immediately on the revolt of the Alliance - Event to a considerable expence which he has since repented, I understand, his Bills having been refused by Dr Franklin.

6th I took command of the Bon Homme Richard the 4th Feb.y 1779 agreable to a letter of that date addressed to me by his Excellency M. de Sartine.

7th The Bonhomme Richard was the property of the King & the Squadron I commanded was at the expence of the Crown of France. This is clear from a letter I received from his Excellency B. Franklin Esq.r dated the 12th Aug.st 1780.

8th I have never born nor acted under any other Commission than that of the Congress of America

9th Two rich Letter of Mark Ships were taken off the Coast of Scotland, & Capt. Landais took upon himself, even under my orders, without my knowledge to order them to Bergen in Norway, where they were given up to the English. (See proof to the contrary. N.o 1)

29th After my arrival at L'Orient the essential repairs were finished early in April by the crew of the Ship & 6 or 8 american Carpenters hired from the Deserters to assist ours - the materials of the old arrangement did not fall much short of finishing the new. I know not the amount of the disbursements - The accounts were never shewn to me, but I understand from Mr Ross the expence of 30 or 40,000 livres was contracted afterwards by Capt. Landais & his Advisers which Mr Franklin refused to pay.

30th M. le Ray de Chaumont had promised from day to day to remit the government monies to L'Orient for the payment of Wages to the 100,000th in part of prize money to be divided among the Americans of the Squadron then on board the Alliance, but at last instead of complying with either he prevailed on the Minister of the Marine to order the Serapis to be valued in the french way for account of the King, & without giving the Captors any satisfaction whatever or obtaining their leave or consent the workmen in the port began to strip up the Cabin &c Messrs Gourlade & Moylan did not interfere to prevent this — I with the Advice of Mr Samuel Wharton & the majority of the Americans then assembled at L'Orient waiting to proceed with me to America, went up to Court to demand the free sale of our prizes agreable to the Laws of the american Navy Mr Franklin went with me to the Minister who contrary to my expectation gave me the most friendly welcome, sent immediate order to publish the Inventories & advertise the sale of the prizes - I improved this moment & the favorable disposition of Government to ask for & obtain the Ariel to assist the Alliance in transporting the Cloathing &c for our Armies. I purposed to augment the Ariel with only 16 Guns with 60 or 80 men, but

had left near 400 Men in the Alliance I had a few sufficient for both Ships — But to my great mortification my scheme was entirely ~~disappointed~~ defeated by Mr. Lee Captain Landais & his party

35/ Capt Landais reposess himself of the Alliance the 13th Jun Mr. Lee & the rest of his Counciel can best answer why he said contrary to my orders, as well as the orders of Mr. Franklin The Passengers he had on board were Mr Lee & his two Nephews Mr Wm. Livingston &c &c

36. The Brig Leda appeard to be in very good condition when she left France, was I understand owned by Mr James Moylan I believe She had some private freight on board

41. The Ariel had on board for the U.S. 437 Barls powdr 146 Chests of Arms, a quantity of Medicine, of 12 Pds Shot & a small quantity of Sheet Lead.

46. No private Merchandise came over in the Ariel to my knowledge. There was on board some 8 or 10 small Trunks & Boxes which I conceive to have been for the private use of Gentlemen of Congress - Mr Ross an old Servant to the Republic had his Books & accounts on board. The Passengers had but little baggage

Sir

Philadelphia March 23d 1781

I have received the favour of your Letter of the 09th instant written by desire of the honorable board of admiralty, requesting my answers to the following questions, and to give every information in my Power on the subject of the clothing and Stores, shipped on board the three States —

Question.

Was any Money furnished by the Court of France to the Minister Plenipotentiary of these States to enable him to procure clothing and Military Stores? If so, What and did he employ in that business? If not, how was the Clothing, and military Stores procured By whom, and to whom were committed the charge of shipping the same to America — —

Answer.

No money was furnished by the court of France to the Minister Plenipotentiary of these States, as his Banker to enable him to procure clothing; That Court gave a commission for that purpose to their own Agents Monsieur Le Ray de Chaumont, and he either received the Money, or was authorized to draw upon the Treasury of France, for payment of the Clothing. Monsieur de Chaumont employed Mr Jonathan Williams of Boston, as his agent to buy it, and Justice requires me to say, That he executed the purchase with fidelity to his employer, and as a sincere friend to these States. For his Reimbursement, he drew Bills of exchange upon Monsieur de Chaumont. At L'Orient, Messrs. Gouthard and Mayhew, are Monsieur de Chaumont's agents for shipping the clothing, and military Stores, and they as well as Mr Williams, act solely by orders from him; and have no Business to do with the Minister Plenipotentiary from these States. As to the Military Stores, they were shipped from the arsenal at Port Louis, in obedience to orders sent from Versailles by the secretary at War — —

May the clothing and Military Stores were not

occasionally obliged, and I am free to declare, not for want of the earnest and cordial manifestations of the Ministers of those States, - Wise, unanimity, and exertion. The Enemies seem greatly straitened for Seamen - and if Capt. Jones had not been diverted by the command of the Alliance Frigate, I am persuaded, being at that time at L'Orient, from his zeal and unwearied Industry for the Service of getting the Cruising Ships to America He would many accidents, with Real Frigate, and the Ariel, which was designed as a Merchant Ship carry about 22 guns and 120 men, and to sail under convoy of the Alliance) have timely relieved the whole, of the greatest part of the Military Stores and Cloathing in one of those States

I have the honour to be &c, with my respects to the Board of Admiralty

Your most humble Servt

Sam.l Wharton

John Brown Esq.r Secretary of the Admiralty

True Copy from the Original A. Lee

Sun 5. Ulto

My dr Sis

Frederick Town Maryland
(No 364) 25. March 1781.

A false report of Toms being ill has brought me to this place. he is well. — Mr Booth's housekeeper and one qua man is dead, his school in great disorder — all the Boys gone & going home. — —

Nancy married last week to Col. Livingston brother to the Chancellor I hope it will prove a happy connection — Appearances are very favorable — She goes for the North river next wednesday, after a Ball the minister gives her on Monday. I am at a loss what to do with Tom. but am fully determined I think to pay you a visit with him before I seriously set down to Business.

Jos and Wm Snipes are afraid R. Lee has wounded his right thumb & finger in some Virginia Dame has wounded his heart. not a line from him. — The Tickets are not marked, as

are

taken out in your name — pray let
Captain Lord have a chance — What has
you of y^e Duke's war? The Potts
Family all greet you & yours.
Adieu God bless you

Yours affectly
Obediently
W. Shippen

[have you taken
Arnold & Cornwallis?]

W. Shipley's letter
25th March 1787

Francis Pepper
David Robinson
Lewis Colin Consul Général
Lewis Romain Congé
Francis Doré Congé

No. 424

(No 424)

Arthur Lee Esq

Bordeaux 1 April 81

Sir

Since my last of the 24 February we have received advice of the reduction of St Eustatia a blow which will greatly affect the Confederates by the loss of Seamen to Holland and the great depredes of Goods belonging to all Nations.

The Fleets of France Spain and England are at Sea consisting Spain of 30 Ships of the line
France — 26 Dº ——
England 32 Dº ——

The Object of Great Britain is the relief of Gibraltar should the English meet either Fleet Seperately which must be the Case if they meet, she will prove superior to them in force and as we have but little room to flatter ourselves of a superior Ability unitedly the Houses of Bourbon could oppose to themselves seperately they have any thing to hazard. Great Stock Jobbing in England to obtain the Subscription for the current year the Subscribers obtain 10 p Cent on their Capital by the rise of Stocks we hope Holland will be roused from her Lethargy by the Stabb she has received. the Stadtholder has a

strong

strong party who have opposed the vigorous efforts recommended by Amsterdam. they must all unite and as their Commercial operations will be at an end they will have more men to employ in the Service of the States. we cannot obtain any certain return of the Forces they will be able to equip this season it appears the English have little apprehension of their efforts as they have left the Channel with only three guard Ships

The arrival of M. Laurence of the Alliance whose particular Dispatches we are uninformed of gives rise to conjectures —— Mess. de Lastic went down to Brest to hasten the departure of the Fleet they put to Sea the 22 ult. in this passage thro Iroient he made particular enquiries into the causes of the long detention of the Marquis de la fayet the Ship Chartered to convey the Cloathing. I have not heard if or not she sailed with the Fleet. we suspect Colonel Palfrey is lost or taken as we do not find the Ship he sailed in in any of the lists of Arrivals. France Spain and

Holland

Holland have advanced Sma[illegible], but so sparingly as little to benifit America. The Negotiations of our different Ministers before has grand Eclat is any line. no effectual support of Ships Men or Money. America must be a Nation Substantialy on her own Vertuous Vigorous efforts must depend her deliverance. On this side the water England appears to gather strength like a well built Arch the stronger the heavier the burthen layd on but the tide disdaine to Europe for apparently all the Maritime powers will unite to reduce her unless they act selectively the wound will be but slight. France has given the command of the Fleet sent out to Comte delgrass a Man little Esteemd by the Nation les bon mots de Palais Royal Angletterre ne veulle pas D'Estaing on lui offert Des Touche elle demand Grass. — By Letters from Bruxelles overtures have been made for a general Congress we are unassured of their taking place with respect & Attachment I am Sir

Your very hble Servt

JD

(No 365) April 3d 81

My Dear Sir:

I have wrote you very often: I have wrote W. Francis Lee, I have wrote my Uncle. I have received no answer from either.

Lord Cornwallis is on his march towards Wilmington: he left Cross-creek on the 1st inst.

Gen Greene moves tomorrow: our wants are so many & so pressing, that I cannot indulge myself with a long Let.

One of my Negroes has orders to call on you, on his way to Philad.a with some papers belonging to me, which my servant neglected to send away in due season, & which

it is necessary to become.

I take the liberty to request your care of them. They will serve to inform you more fully of the present, as well as past situation of affairs here, than I can do in the compass of one epistle.

I entreat you to present me in the most respectful terms to your Lady, & my cousins.

I have the honor to be dear Sir with the most perfect esteem your friend & Hble Servt.

Hy Lee Junr.

Camp. On Cape Fear river
5th April 81.

H. Lee Jr.

N.o 262

5th April 1781

2d. Colo. Henry Lee

of the Legn. Dragoons

4. Letter to Lafayette — Extract

Sir/ In Council 8th April 1781.

Many concurring Accounts lately received induced us to believe that General Phillips with not less than two thousand Men has arrived at Portsmouth. From these facts we think we are justified in concluding that the Enemy have in contemplation, the effecting a Junction with Cornwallis which if accomplished must terminate in the destruction or dispersion of the Southern Army, if not strongly and timely reinforced, the plundering harassing and distressing the people on the Shores, the destroying our Cown and Military Stores and getting possession of the provisions that have been collected for our Army; the Military Stores and provisions at this place and Baltimore Town must be a capital object and as we have the strongest reasons to think as soon as they have perpetrated their

(designs)

504 designs in Potowmack, if not before, they will visit this City and Baltimore. Under these Circumstances we ~~beg~~ leave to submit to your Consideration the Propriety of detaining the detachment under your Command in this State and marching such a part as you may deem necessary to our assistance in Baltimore Town and in this City —

The Marquis Fayette
4th Extract

(No 370) 2

My dear B.r Bruxelles ap. 13. 1781.

Inclosed you have Copies of the two accounts I transmit by this same Conveyance to Congress; the reason of my altering y.e orginal Acc.t N.o 1. & new stating it as in N.o 2. is mention'd between y.e two Acc.ts & I must further observe that the feelings & prevailing sentiments in Am.a which dictated the resolves of Congress Sep.t 20. 1776 when the appointment to be a Commissioner was refused, were very different from those which produced the resolutions of the 6 aug.t 1779. when even y.e Presid.t and other members of Congress were intriguing for such appointments. This however sh.d in Justice be considered, in rewarding those who undertook y.e appointments at the different periods.

as I do not know y.t I have one friend or acquaintance in Congress to write to, to push forward this business for me, I must rely on your kindness to write to some member of y.t body to bring it to a conclusion and to take care that whatever Sum Congress may think proper to allow, may be transmitted to me in bills on Europe. Col. Searle and m.r Dana passed thro here yesterday in their way from Paris to Holland, they both assured me y.t bills of Exch.a on Europe were plentifull in Virg.a, Maryl.d, & Pensylv.a — The Exchange 70 for one in y.e old paper and 52 for one in the new paper. In this state of things I sh.d have hoped to receive some remittances from the Estate but now I can hardly expect any thing this year as Virginia will be the Seat of War. By repeated Conveyances last year I gave y.e Gov.r of Virg.a & Maryland, advice of the determination of the B. Cabinet to push their chief force last

Winter

Winter and this Summer agt the Carolinas & Virginia
some of those Letters must have got to hand as the vessels they
went by arrived safe, but yr warn g seems to have had no
effect frm the very defenceless and unprepar'd state that Leslie
and the Traitor afterwards found Virga in. I am so very
feeble and reduced by a continued and severe illness ever
since Oct: last that I am not able to enter into the large field
of European Politices which indeed is some what inexplicable.
Heyder Alli in the E. Indies Navg. made an irruption into the
Carnatic with 80000 horse totally defeated & cut to pieces a
large British Army. Has ~~taken~~ taken the whole Country of Arcot
& it is s.d had laid siege to Madrass, after retaking Pondi=
=cherry. This is by far a more sensible blow on our Enemies, yn
any they have rec.d frm every power in Europe since yr Com=
=mencement of Hostilities to this time. or than they are likely
to receive y.r year frm them altogether as things appear at
present, so very Contemptibly are affairs conducted on y.r
Quarter of the Globe. The Conduct of y.r affairs in France seems
to have grown worse & worse. At last some cloathg is gone
yr Eg Ufo in y.e Marquis de la Fayette under convoy of the
Alliance. The freight paid to this old Ship yt will hardly swim
to America, they say at Nantes, wd have Built them frm y.e Stocks
& sent compleatly fitted to Sea a Frigate of 36 Guns in
less time yn she has taken to be fitted for this voyage, But
Mr. Chaumont is s.d to be a part owner, which accounts for
all. He and mr Williams have had yt Sole manage=
=ment and direction of yr Ships and her cargoe. ——
Extracts of a Letter just rec.d frm Bourdeaux dated the 7th

ap.l

ap.l 1781. The Marquis de [redacted] ged to a Compy who
"purchased her of the old [redacted] wh trade she had made
"some voyages. They sent her [redacted] to the W. Indies in wch voyage
"She sunk money to ye owners & being found unprofitable and
"& was old unfit for service they ordered her to be laid up here.
"Le Ray de Chaumont became proprietor, and charter'd her to
"Mr. Franklin. — Bills to a considerable amount are drawn
"by order of the State of Virga on D'acosta Freres. who have admit-
"=ed them to be protested. — The Credit of particular States is in
"disrepute". — In G. B. They have this year created a perpetual
debt of 21. Millions to borrow 12 million & they will create besides
an unfunded debt of 8 million more, over and above their an-
=nual income. Thus the Bubble of Credit and ~~[illegible]~~ paper
has been carried to a ~~height~~ incredible and almost in-
=conceivable by ye mind of man. But if Heyder Ali
~~[illegible]~~ pursues his conquests in ye East, this bubble will
soon burst & yn Farewell to British insolence and Barbarity
for ever. My whole Family unite with me in affect. Love
to you and all yours, & beg you to remember us to all our
Brothers, Sisters, and Friends. — Mr. Adams has borrow-
=ed for Congress in Holland one million florins, ~~[illegible]~~
upwards of £90,000. Sterlg. wch is supposed to be a prelude
to a farther and more considerable Loan.

I am most truely
My dear Br. most affect.
Friend &c

W. L.

R. H. Lee esqr.
Fr Comte Gillon

(Copy)

12 / 142 / 11.4.0.1
12 / 22 / 5.4.2.
22 / 12 / 17.8.2.1
10 / 5
12 / 50 / 4
48 / 2
4 / 8
16

25 / 142 / 5.3.1.1
125 / 3
17 5 / 17.0.0.0 17 barrels & 1 Gallon
25 / 05 / 3 B. bar. P. G
75 / 10
4
25 / 40 / 1
25 / 15
2
25 / 30 / 1

Ipswich [illegible] R. Island
June 13th 1781
(Aug 20)
[illegible]

142 / 12 / 17 18 / 11 / 1
10 5 2/3 1/3
14,2 / 192

D. Sir, (No 37) Richmond Apr. 16. 1781.

We are very sorry that it is out of our power to furnish you with cartridge paper & lead. The former article has been entirely exhausted from our magazines by the Southern & eastern armies. your express receives 500 flints, and should have lead powder but that we think it better you should purchase the two or three barrels you propose & draw on the Executive for paiment which shall be made. The returns of military stores having been lost, we do not know by recollection that there are either ball or grapeshot belonging to the public at Fredericksburg. if there be, and you can inform me of it, and in the mean time prevail on the person in whose possession it is, to deliver a proper quantity to you, I will send him the approbation of the Executive: or if you can buy, we will pay for it.

Our last news from the South was of the 6th. inst. when Ld. Cornwallis was near Wilmington, and Genl. Greene setting out on his march from Deep river for South Carolina. Phillips commands in Portsmouth. his whole force 2500. I think you may rely from the intelligence we have had that no land force went from thence in the vessels

which are distressing Patronage.

I am with much respect Sir

Your most obed.t Servt

P.S. The advertisement shall be published.

(~~No 96~~)
(No 371)

April 1781
Gov. Jefferson about
Stores wanted for the
Militia of Westm.

5 Dg
3 Qr
17. 0

No 96

Gov. Jefferson
The honble
Richard Henry Lee
Westmoreland

Dear Sir

Boston April 29th. 1781

It is now a long time since I had the pleasure of a Line from you I did hope before this time, I might address you as the Secretary for foreign affairs, when I heard the measure for appointing one was adopted, I had no difficulty in my own mind in fixing on the ~~Person~~ proper Person. I hoped that the decision of Congress would be agreable to my own wishes. if any thing done about that matter, or on the report of a Committee for recalling Doct Franklin, you can't conceive how little we know here of the affairs of Europe. or even of the Transactions at Philadelphia. such depredations have been made on the Mails that our friends seem to be very cautious of writing at all. but as no Instance have lately taken place I hope they will resume their usual Freedom of Communication I think they may do it with safety we have no News here, our Internal affairs here are in the same way as when you left us. our Established popularity has decided our Elections in the same manner as the last Year, it is difficult to say how long this may last, Streams of all kind will have their rise for a time. but often form their own Bars

& stop their own Shines. perhaps this may be the Case I have not yet been able to procure a Survey & Plan of your Grant of Lands but am not Inattentive to it you will please to receive my Compliments to Genl. Ward & M. Lovel. I suppose our Friend Adams is on the road. The Purser of the Alliance certainly deceived you he never had any such Licence from the Navy Board here. but that is no fault of yours. besides who could suppose that a public Minister on his return home might not bring a small quantity of Goods in a public Ship without any reflection or demands upon him. certainly the Navy Board would have conceived it their duty to have given orders for it. M.rs Warren desires her Compliments to Dear Lee. I hope in his next Jour to Boston to have the pleasure of seeing him at my House without the trouble of riding 42 Miles in the rain. I am Sir with great respect

Your Sincere Friend &
Humb.e Serv.t
M Warren

My Compliments
to Col. Lee is he now
a member of Congress

Arthur Lee Esq

Paris le 1er may 1781.

(N°341)

J'ay pas Monsieur lire votre lettre a Mr le Vte Laurens. Il m'a semblé qu'il n'avoit besoin d'aucun secours pour faire aussi la besogne dont il a été chargé. Je souhaite que tout soit au point que le congrès en soit pleinement satisfait. Il me faut beaucoup que j'aie eu l'honneur de le voir aussi souvent que je l'aurois désiré. nous avons dîné ensemble a bord de la Rochefoucaut. quant a Mr Potter, il le connoissoit avant que j'eusse reçu la lettre que vous avez eu la bonté de lui écrire pour moy

Je reçus Hier a quatre heures un gros ballot ou j'ay trouvé quelques pièces qui ont rapport a vous. Je les ai lues avec empressement et j'en ai été fort content. Il me semble que vous devez être aussi

Jusqu'a présent j'ay reçu quatre lettres de vous depuis que vous êtes en amerique savoir celle du 26 d'août et une de Philadelphie du 24 8bre j'ay répondu a la 1ere le 5 9bre et a la seconde le 3 janvier adieu my dear Sir, believe me for ever your &c

Le D

Je voudrois avoir des nouvelles a vous dire, au moins des détails des choses qui peuvent vous interesser dans ce pays ci mais je n'ay absolument rien. nous attendons avec impatience ce qui se passera tant chez vous que dans les îles. Quant aux affaires orientales, les affaires des anglois y paroissent en bien mauvais état, notre Chargé

on arrive Le

De lile de france les allez y aider Hyder ali con ainsy nous devons
attendre de bonnes nouvelles de cette partie. adieu Monsieur
Quand vous trouvera une occasion sure, donnez moy devous prie de vos
nouvelles et de celles de vos affaires en detail. Je nay pas voulu faire la
memeque[illegible] a mr Grard dans la situation ou je me trouve bien embarassante
lui ma fait beaucoup de peine

Anonymous to Lee.
1st May 1781
(No 241)

In this bundle.
Letters from Frenchmen to Lee
Some translated.

Sept. 28th

the Honble. Arthur Lee Esq.

1781

of

à Saint Ch. May 1781

Monsieur

M. le Colonel Laurens m'a fait l'honneur
de me remettre la Lettre par laquelle vous
m'avés fait la grace de me l'adresser. Je serois
charmé d'pouvoir cultiver sa connoissance autant
que l'éloignement, où nous nous trouverons me
le permettra, puis que comme vous jugés il
demeure à Passy, et il m'a fait espérer de
le rencontrer à Paris. Sa société avec lui
la considération d'un brave officier, et d'un homme
bien attaché à sa patrie, qualités qui le rendent
estimable à tous égards, me font désirer particulier
ce que vous avés bien voulu me l'adresser.

Il y a eu un moment dans lequel je me flattois de voir un acheminement à la paix, la médiation, ou les bons offices offerts par la Cour de Vienne sembloient la rendre assez probable; mais actuellement les apparences d'un accommodement paroissent éloignées à moins, que l'angleterre n'y soit obligée par les troubles, qui font perdre de vue l'établissement dans l'Inde.

Malgré les mauvaises nouvelles, qui

nouvellement d'Angleterre nous engage absolument que
ces braves compatriotes parviendront à chasser
totalement les anglois.

J'ay eu l'honneur de vous écrire
... ois de Janvier des ier. Juillet par lesquelles je vous
marquois alors j'espère une tournure qui
[illegible] j'espere, que ma Lettre vous aura
[illegible] je n'ay pas encore reçue celle dont
vous me mandés m'avoir écrit par. La voie de
M. Dalrymple. J'aurois appris par sa part. La lettre
[illegible] que j'ay eu [illegible] mon cher oncle
dont la santé étoit beaucoup rétablie lorsqu'il quitta Paris.
Je comptois de me rappeller au souvenir de M.
Izard, et de votre famille des sentiments très respectueux
que je vous ay voués, et avec les quels j'ay l'honneur d'être

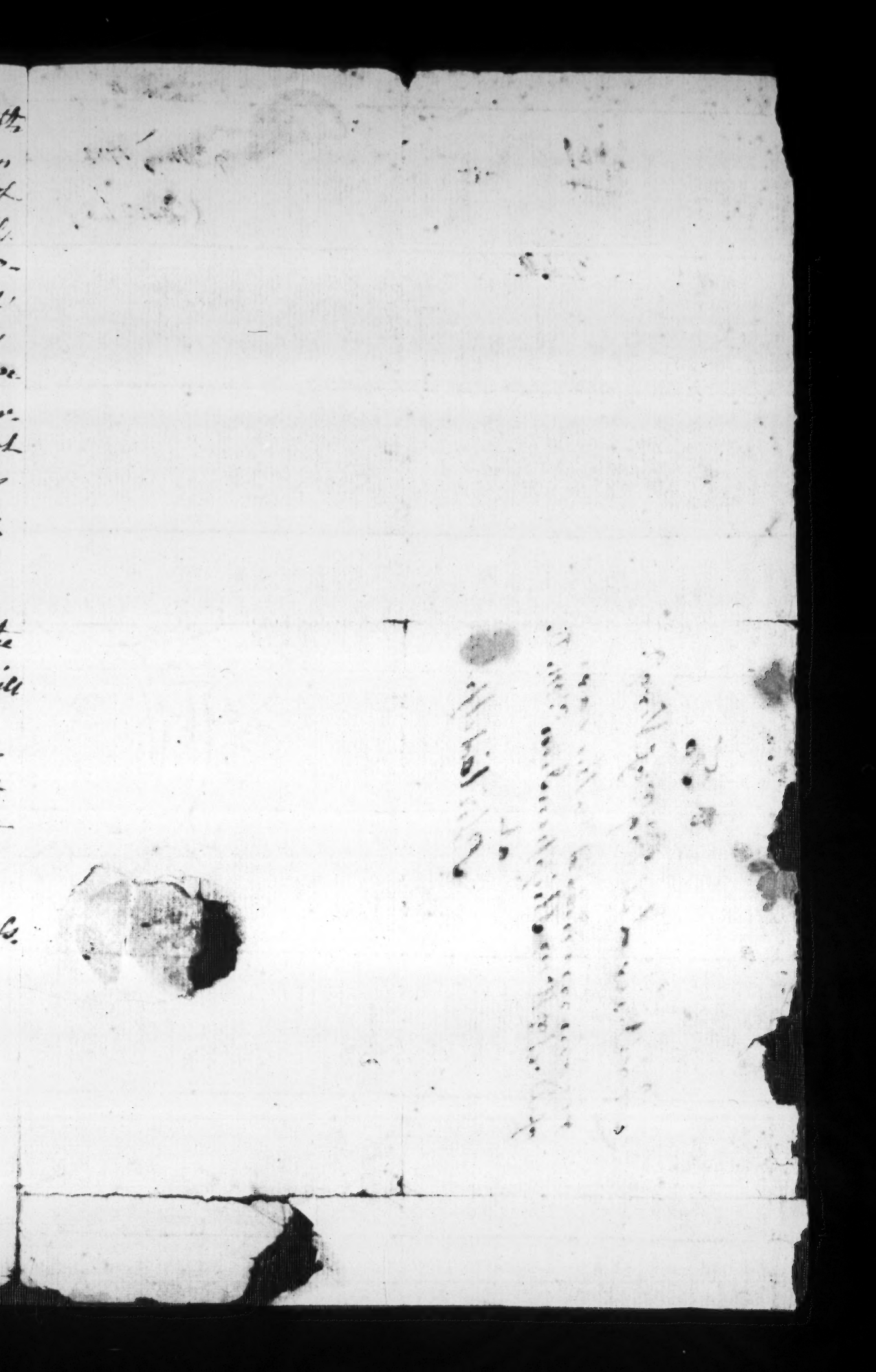
Monsieur

Votre très humble, très
obeissant serviteur
le B.n de Wara

hold the Empress will declare herself to all Europe next month, in the mean time Spain France & Holl. seem to be gazing on & waiting to see the issue. Darby with 28 ships of the line, a large fleet of Victuallers is to relieve Gibraltar left Ireland the 29 March; the same day Cordova with 32 of the line returned to Cadiz to water and victual cause which, we have not heard a word of Darby nor whether Cordova has again put to sea. The winds have indeed been constantly ever since at E. & N.E. & hardly a merchantship at Sea not that 'till the wind changes we may not hear by that way & the Spaniards seem willing to keep us in the dark as long as they can. I am inclin'd to think if Darby succeeds in his mission & gets back all safe & sound, the K. of P. will full bold & return at the last proposition from Russia. The German recruits to the amount of 3000 have not all yet left ~~Ireland~~ Germany. they will finally depart from Cork, with about 2000 recruits from Ireland that go as soon as they are ready in every fleet of victuallers for N.Y. in all the forces destined for N. Am.a this year. Thus I suppose the Am.n army will be superior to the British, exclusive of Militia.

Give our Love to all with you & accept the same yourself & whenever you write send me a list of Congress.

God Bless you — Farewell



(N°342) Bruxelles 9 May 1781.

Dear Sir

Rec'd y'r favor by Mr Laurens a month after his arrival — a safe trick. an idle life — in an unhealthy climate, after a life of activity & bustle had nearly brot me to an end — but I think I now feel myself on the recovery & when the spring weather comes on I flatter myself with a full & speedy recovery. Mr Dana is about setting off for Petersbg Mr Jennings left this [illegible] day to attend him, either as Secy or Companion I don't know which; nor does he, till he gets to Holland — The Political news in Europe is hardly worth mentioning, there is are more ships or less stir making of the Ports on the Continent than if perfect Peace reign'd every where, in England they are busy in building & launching new ships of War in almost every port & public & private in the Kingdom. The Dutch have not yet sent a single ship of War or Privateer to sea: they have only swimming in their ports, not fit for Sea, 1, 74, 1 60 5 — 30 & 5 D°. & 4 Frigates from 44 to 20 Guns. The Empress of Russia has lately by her Minister in London told the King that she will immediately acknowledge the Independence of America & that Lewis has approved the outlines of a General Peace to which she demanded a Categorical answer. The K. knowing that the Empress will certainly join the Swed & Danish [illegible] by the K. of Prussia & the Emperor offers a finger, way terribly [illegible] — no answer is yet given, but we are told

hold the Empress will declare herself to all Europe next month in the mean time Spain France & Holl. assemble their gazeings & waiting to see the issue. Darby with 28 heavy ships of the line, a large fleet of Victuallers is to relieve Gibraltar, & left Ireland the 29 March, the same day Cordova with 32 of the line returning to Cadiz for water and victual, since which, we have not heard a word of Darby nor whether Cordova has again put to sea. The winds have indeed been constantly ever since at E. & N.E. & hardly a merchantship at Sea but that till the wind changes we may not hear by that way & the Spaniards seem willing to keep us in the dark as long as they can. I am inclin'd to think if Darby succeeds in his mission & gets back all safe & sound, the K. of E. will feel bold & return at the last proposition from Russia. The German recruits to the amount of 3000 have not all yet left Germany & they will finally depart from Cork, with about 2000 recruits from Ireland that are offered they are ready in every fleet of victuallers for N. Y. in all the force destined for N. Am.a this year. Thus I suppose the Am.n army will be superior to the British, exclusive of Militia.

Give our Love to all with you & accept the same yourself whenever you write send me a list of Congress.

God Bless you — Farewell

Mr Le to

9th May 1781.

(No: 242.)

1781.

(copie)

No 242.

Dear General Charlitty May the 10th 1781

Permit me now to thank you for your favor by Mr. Price and for the newspapers inclosed. It is to be hoped that the pride of Great Britain will with her power be reduced ere long within the bounds of moderation; and this will certainly be the case if the Dutch will exert themselves as they ought, and the Spaniards cease to knock their heads in vain against the rocks of Gibraltar. In the mean time, it seems as if we should be left to struggle against the pride, the power, and the rancor of the british court. it is now a war of inveterate malice on her part against us, so that what they cannot carry off they destroy.

Your letter of the 4th instant to Colo. J. A. Washington was by him transmitted to me on monday night last at 12 Oclock - I did not then know that the Express had been below, and therefore I immediately dispatched a Messenger to Colo. Gaskins with a copy of your letter, and a request that he would cause Lookouts to be placed on the most advantageous parts of the Bayshore for descrying Vessels far down Chesapeake, and to give me the quickest notice of the coming up of the hostile fleet to the end that an Express might carry it on to you. We have held a council of field Officers and Captains upon the subject of your letter to Colo. Washington, and our opinion respecting the defence of the Lower part of the Northern Neck you will see in the letter to the Governor which is left open for your perusal and that the business might pass thro your hands to government, as we

conceive that your superior command should not be interrupted by that of a younger general Officer whom we solicit to be placed in these 5 lower counties. Our situation is singular, differing from that of any other part of the State - which are as it were empounded by the Bay on one side, Potomac & Rappahanock on two other sides, and only a narrow egress of a few miles, in some places I believe not more than 5 miles wide. from whence to the lowest part of the N. Neck, is 60 or 70 miles, containing very many slaves, much Tobacco public & private, with abundant stocks of all kinds. Thus affording to the enemy the double temptation of greatly profiting themselves and ruining a considerable tract of country. while we are in a manner cut off from the aid of our fellow citizens by water enclosures possessed by the enemies Vessels, and only accessible to our friends by a very narrow entrance. Every reason therefore calls for a special attention to such a situation. Whilst your mind may be engrossed by the greater objects up Potomac and about the Falls of Rappahanock. the immediate eye and presence of a skilful general Officer to organize our militia with a small regular corps for them to resort to and form with if the enemy should come would at least stay the hand of ravage until you could bring upon their backs a superior force from above - but in our disjointed unskilful present state, and indeed almost unfurnished with ammunition, we may be swept from Fredericksburg to Hoots Bay, 80 or 90 miles, with infinite ease and great profit to the enemy. Your letter ought to have animated us all, yet I found yesterday in a neighbouring county that all was quiet and unmoved as if peace with the

whole world placed them in the greatest security – In truth Sir we want an active knowing Officer upon the Spot with power compitent to the compelling a due attention to those things which are requisite for our own salvation – Cannot Gen. Spotswood be placed here so long as the present storm threatens, during which alone it is that our idea extends to the having a regular Corps to countenance the Militia – Can you spare us any Cartridges if we were to send up to Fredericksb.g for them – We have a person making for us as fast as possible, but we have not a sufficiency of materials for him. We have appointed a place of Rendezvous and a Commissary to make conditional contracts for provision, and persons are employed in making Cartridge boxes & Canteens – We have done every thing in our power in this county, and Jewish the same activity prevails in the other counties – We have no military experience, no artillery, little ammunition, and no Cavalry at present – We are endeavoring for the latter, and hope soon to have about 50 Light horse in this County – We hear that our friend Greene goes rapidly on in S. Carolina, hath any certain good news from that or any other quarter? Has not reached you. If Gen. Greene pushes the enemy well in the South it may disburthen us of this destructive band that are doing this country so much injury – They seem to design – troy for the sake of destruction, and to mean that hostility shall for ever remain between the blood of this country & that of G. Britain – How far is Gen. Wayne off, and is he with our N. York Militia to be pushed southward whilst the opinion is that the enemy is coming to this northern river – You say that the Marquis has directed you "to prepare for the worst" I think indeed that you may prepare to see the worst

catastrophy take place in the northern parts of Virginia, if all the strength is sent into the south whilst the enemy are quitting that & coming here – but this will surely be rectified by the wisdom of the Marquis and his assistant general officers. My compliments if you please to your family both civil & military – I am dear general sincerely yours

Richard Henry Lee

P. S. When you have read, be pleased to seal, & send the Governor letter forward – if you approve, no doubt you will add your weight to our desires.

Richd Henry Lee
May 20th 1781

Sir Philadelphia 12th. May 1781.

I am this moment informed of an Express going to the Southward, & have but just time to let you know that a Vessel arrived here yesterday from L'Orient, which place she left the 26th. March. Her Captain, & the passengers report that on the 21st. of the same Month a very large Fleet of Ships of the Line & Frigates sailed from Brest, having under Convoy a great number of Transports with 15,000 Troops on board, & other Vessels. The whole together amounting to about 400 sail. It was said in France that this Fleet was to continue together till they came into a certain Latitude, & was then to seperate into three parts; one to go to the Mauritius, and Isle Bourbon, the others to the West Indies, & North America. The Numbers to each place unknown. My opinion is that we shall have

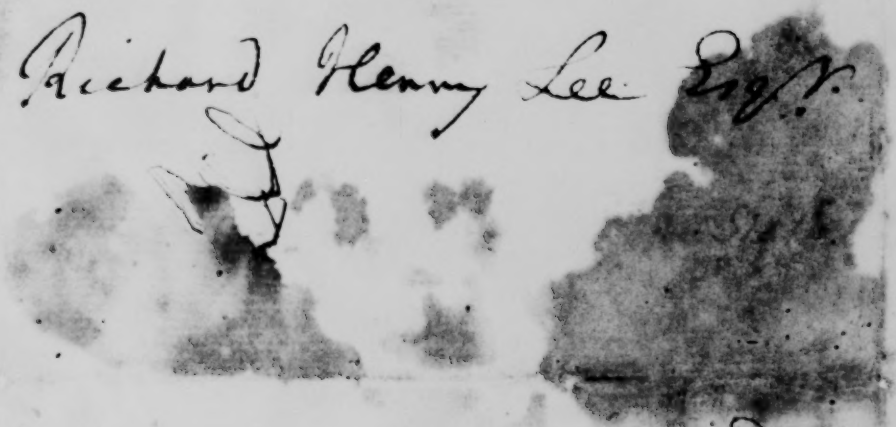
eight, or nine Ships of the Line, & 6 or 7000
Troops for our shore. The ship Lucerne sailed
in company with them one that is arrived, &
was taken a day or two after they left
L'Orient. By some unaccountable accident
all the Letters were put on board of
the Lucerne; so that we have nothing but
oral information. In the unpleasant situ-
ation in which Virginia is at present, I
thought it might be of service to give you
immediate information of the above intelligence
which [redacted] will tend to keep up the
spirits of the people. A considerable part of
the French Troops are marched from Rhode
Island on their way towards Fishkill, and
West Point. Gov.r Rutledge, in a day or two,
purposes going to Head Quarters, to consult with
the Genl. about what should be done to the Southern
as soon as the French reinforcement arrives.
I am with great regard Dear Sir your most obed.t Serv.t
Ra.. Izard.

I have rec'd your favour of 20th April.
No news yet of your Brother. The Alliance,
with Col. Laurens on board, was arrived at
L'Orient, & was to sail immediately, together
with the Fayette, a very stout armed ship
loaded with the long expected stores.
As I do not know where you are, I shall
take the liberty of putting this under cover
to Govr Jefferson.

4/540/130

730/141

Richard Henry Lee Esq.r



12 Pr. Post

Richd. Lee

1781

A Versailles le 16.R Mai 1781

(49)

Le Congrès a chargé M. Laurens de solliciter du Roy un secour pécuniaire et de demander sa garantie pour un emprunt. En consequence sa Majesté a bien voulu accorder en forme de don la somme de six millions tournois. Elle a egalement consenti à être caution d'un emprunt de dix millions qui doit être ouvert en Hollande pour le compte du Congrès. Et si cet emprunt rencontroit des difficultés, Elle a même pris la resolution d'y ~~suppléer~~ suppléer de ses propres finances, le plutot qu'il lui sera possible.

Les six millions que sa Majesté a accordés ont été employés de la maniere suivante. On a envoyé deux millions cinq cent mille livres a Brest pour y être embarquées — la somme d'un million cinq cents mille livres a été envoyée a Amsterdam pour y être embarquée egalement — on employera environ deux mil

Sent by Brest 2,500,000 liv:
Sent to Amsterdam 1,500,000 —
To goods by Lauens 2,000,000 —
6,000,000

millions pour les marchandises dont M. Laurens a été chargé de faire l'achat.

Outre les sommes mentionnées ci-dessus S. M. a bien voulu accorder a M. Franklin quatre millions pour acquitter les lettres de change tirées sur lui par le Congrès. Dans le cas ou l'emprunt qui doit etre ouvert en Hollande pour le compte des Americains manqueroit de succès S. M. se verra dans la necessité d'y suppléer. Il est entendu que les Etats Unis rembourseront a sa Majesté la somme de dix millions, attendu que la dite somme remplacera les engagemens que l'on aura contracter en Hollande.

Les operations de la Campagne dont S. M. a tracé le plan, au Commandant de son Escadre en Amerique, forment le second objet qui interesse les Etats-Unis, et vous pouvez faire les idées du Congrès ni du General Washington sur le moment de l'apparition de son Escadre dans les parages de l'Amerique septentrionale. Elle les apprend que le succès des operations de

de leurs armées entre principalement dans ses vues pour la campagne prochaine. Il convient par conséquent qu'a l'arrivée du Colonel Laurens, les Etats-Unis se mettent en mesure de profiter des evenemens que la flotte de S. M. pourra operer en Amerique

A Versailles le 16 May 1781 De Vergennes

Translation

At Versailles the 16th of May 1781.

The Congress having chang'd M. Laurens to solicit from the King pecuniary Aid, & that he w. be security for a Loan. His Majesty is therefore pleased to furnish as a gift the sum of Six millions of Livres tournois. He has also consented to be Security for a loan of ten millions to be open'd in Holland for the U. S. & if this loan should meet with any difficulty he has also determin'd to furnish it out of his treasury as soon as possible.

The six millions which his M. has given have been applyd in the following manner.— Two millions & an half are sent to Brest, to be embarked there — One million & an half to Amsterdam to be embarked there — About two millions will be employd in purchasing the Clothing ordered by M. Laurens.

Besides these sums, his M. has been pleas to grant to M. Terrachon four millions to

to pay bills drawn on him by Congress. Should the Loan in Holland on account of the U. S. fail of success, his Majesty sees, he will be under the necessity of supplying it. — It is understood that the U.S. shall repay to his Majesty the ten millions in order that the said sum may replace the engagements contracted in Holland.

The operations of the Campaign of his Majesty has sketched the plan, for his Commander in America, form the second object that interests the U. S. And the notable to fix the moment when his Squadron will appear on the Coast of America, he informs them that the success of their army is the principal object in the approaching Campaign. It will therefore be proper, that on the arrival of Col. Laurens, that the U.S. should prepare themselves to take advantage of the consequences of the arrival of his Majesty's fleet in America.

at Versailles y. 16 May 1781

sign De Vergennes

True Copy examined

67 Dear Genl. Prince Wm. May 18th 1781

In Consequence of a Lre. of the 5th Inst. from you for holding my Militia in readiness on the Minute Plan I have draughted one fourth of the Militia and appointed two Rendezvous in the County Arranged them in two Companys the lower Company are to meet at Dumfries on every Saturday and the Upper Company on every Wednesday in the week at Dawkins old field there to be trained and on the training days to receive pay & rations so that I shall always know where to call fourth a body of Men on the first Alarm, but Sir what we have to do for Arms we shall want at least 100 the Arms we had belonging to the Public were sent down with our last Detachmt. to Norfolk and at Richmond by Genl Nelson detained who promised.

Capt. Brent. We should draw other Arms
from Fredk's B., now pray inform me
without delay if this can be done and
the Number we may Expect as I will on
Receit of Y Lre Send down for them
and keep only such men on duty as can
be Armed otherwise it would be Ruining
the Country to a needless Expence and Usefully
fatiguing the People be Explicit in Y
orders to me for my future Conduct what
I have done I hope meets Y Approbation

I am with Esteem
Y most Obt Servt
H. Lee Col 7th

There are 3 Deserters
in Goal and one of
the Marquis's men
here who was left Sick
in Town but is now able
to March therefore Pray send up a —
Serjt Guard for them to Dumfries

H. Lee

On Public Service

General Weedon or
Commanding Officer
in
Fredksburg

Va

Lee Co. Lt. Dr.

Capt. Hill Chew
Williamsburg

Dear Sir Philadelphia (Virginia) May 28th 1781

Gen. Wayne has certainly marched after quelling a mutiny by some spirited examples. I hope he will arrive in time to attack the Enemy before their junction. I have not been able to obtain any one movement in my business nor do I know when I shall. Low People when exalted love to shew they are Masters. Dr. Franklin upon receiving the account of Col. Laurens's mission wrote to Congress pretending old age, infirmity & a desire to remain in Europe that he may not risque himself in crossing the Ocean. I suppose Col. Laurens will be continued in his place. S. M. & Duane have both left Congress. Smith is here still. No appearance of the 2d division. Some begin to think that no naval force will come till the hurricane months oblige that now sent to the W. Indies to come hither. Tis impossible to know what to expect after so long & so repeated a violation of promises. Please to let Mr. Turbervill know that the whole of the interest on those Bills which draw Bills here amounted only to £10 hard money which I have paid to Dr. Witherspoon. There remain 7 pounds due to him, & the conveyance on Irwin's Bond to be paid for, which can not be done without he directs me to sell one of the loan Office Certificates that bear interest, the rest, the others not being saleable here. I am afraid I shall not be with you till next month. Towards the latter end. The Mahogany you desired will come to about twelve pounds hard money, therefore I have ordered half of them. I lost 100 hard Dollars upon the depreciation of the Continental money I had, so that it will be impossible for me to find one farthing for Matilda. There are several arrivals here from the Havannah with hard money. Flower is fallen there from 40 to 25 hard Dollars pr Cwt.

Farewell my love with you

28 May 1781

~~Northern~~

No 3 N 2

Rec'd 4 Aug.

Rec'd

28th May 1781

Arth. Lee Esq.

Instr. for Secretaries

Sr. Rich. Henry Lee

Cumberland

Virginia

Sir (№ 373) Charlottesville May 29th 1781.

Information having been given me that a considerable number of men have deserted from the French army & navy in America which the Commanding Officers are very urgent to have apprehended, I must desire you to give orders at the several ferries in your County that all foreigners offering to cross at them & having the appearance of Souldiers or Seamen be examined with great strictness & if there be good reason to believe them to be Deserters that they then be delivered to such person as you shall appoint to guard them 'till you can have an opportunity by Militia or otherwise to send them with a State of the circumstances of suspicion to the head Quarters of Major General the Marquis la Fayette.

I am with much respect Sir
Your most Obd. Servt

W. Fleming

Westmoreland

Robert Morris Superintend.ce &c. to D.r Franklin June 8.th 1781

(52)

Congress have thought proper to commit to me the disposition & management of the money granted to the U. S. by his M.t Christian M. in aid of our operations for the present campaign, in order that the same may be solely applyd to that use. And for this reason I have found it necessary to keep the whole business of this grant separate & distinct from any other, so that its application may at any time clearly be seen. Instead therefore of drawing on your Excellency, who have many other bills running upon you, I have judgd it expedient to name Messr.s le Coulteulx & Co. bankers in the rue Mortorgueil Paris, to receive the money engagd from his Majesty's ministers, so that they may be enabled to honor my bills whenever they appear & punctually to acquit them when they fall due. ——— I have written to Messr.s de Lauch that you would join & support them in any application that may become needful to his his Majesty or his ministers &c.a I hope you will readily do. And on the other hand your attention to the interest of this Country will lead you to inform yourself whether the house of le Coulteulx & Co.a are as perfectly safe & rich as they ought to be to entitle them to this trust. They are represented to me as one of the safest & most prudent banking houses in Europe.

His Excellency the Minister of France at this place now writes to have 500,000 tournois deposited with them on account of the U.S. subject to my draft or order. Should their credit not entitle them to this trust, you will please to interpose & consult with Mr. Neckar what banker to employ, in such case directing those you do employ to accept & pay my drafts. Should it be more agreable to Mr. Neckar that any other banker be made use of give me the name & write me the propriety of such alteration, & I shall acquiesce in such alteration immediately on receipt of your letter. For I have no partiality in public business. All I wish is to act with security & to the best advantage. If you think proper to enquire into the terms on which the bankers will receive & pay this money & settle their commissions on the most moderate footing, I shall be happy in your doing so.

My dear Sir, R. H. Lee Chantilly June 12th 1781 C +

After acknowledging the receipt of your favor of May 29th last I beg you to accept my thanks for it — this now a long time since I have been of opinion that our plan of secrecy in Congress was productive of consequences fatal to the American cause and fertile of good to its enemies only — For until Congress obey the injunction of secrecy, Individuals communicate without reserve such intelligence to our enemies as benefit them whilst the friends of America by being kept in the dark are exposed to ruin ere they are aware of danger — I have not been able to explain your enigmatical Letter by any communications that our delegates have made so far as their informations have reached me. My mind is therefore perplexed with an infinity of doubts without having any certain clue to guide me thro' the labyrinth — I have not seen the Gazette you mention & therefore want my Key — but it is impossible for a person so attentive as I have always been not to know that the final & fierce designs of our Enemys are levelled at us, and that as, I apprehend at the liberties of North America — for however feeble the resources of this Country may have been under republican Government, if once it is placed under the sword of tyranny such efforts and such resources will appear as to put the liberties of the rest in very eminent peril. I love liberty and wish that the whole human race enjoyed it, and I have a peculiar affection for that of the eastern part of the [redacted] tion. Let me entreat you therefore Sir, if your worthy Associates from the east, not to slumber a moment over our present actual state; decision, dispatch, and much wisdom are indispensably necessary, and I verily believe we shall

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soon be lost to ourselves and you. Do not write under any influence of brain apprehensions, but from the cool, considerate dictates of judgment founded upon good materials. A very great majority of the people of this Country are good whigs & very determined to maintain their independence and being so, how they came into their present state of thraldom is beside my present purpose to enquire. Like a good physician the Congress will consider that the inordinacy of the symptom must be subdued, before application can with safety be made to the cause. The fact is, the enemy by a quick collection of their force, by rapid movements, are now in the centers of Virginia with a army of regular infantry greater than that of the compounded militia and militia commanded by the Marquis with 500 or 600 regular cavalry — that our new assembly has from various causes not yet convened — that before the Legislature that is to be assembled at Charlottesville in the very heart of our Country they were dispersed by the british cavalry 500 in number with as many mounted infantry — that Governor Jefferson having resigned and no successor appointed, and the next to him in authority Mr Digges having been made a prisoner this Country is in the moment of the greatest danger without government, abandoned to the arts & the arms of the Enemy, both which are pursued with the greatest zeal & clearly see that in this state of things, that wanting a remedy in the storm the good ship must inevitably be [redacted] away — Congress alone can furnish the preventative. The temper of the people here, and a thousand other considerations point to the remedy. [redacted] a strong force be immediately sent to

Virginia, with 2 or 3000 good Troops - Let Congress at the head of the
Federal union, in this crisis, direct that until the Legislature can
convene and a Governor be appointed, the General be possessed of
dictatorial powers, and that it be strongly recommended to the
Assembly when convened to continue those powers for 6. 8 or 10
months as the case may be. And the General may be desired
instantly on his arrival in Virginia to summon the members
of both houses to meet where he shall appoint, to organize
and revest the Government. You may be assured Sir, that
if this is quickly done, and Arms & Ammunition forwarded,
that the Enemies possessions in the South will be very few,
and the prospects they may propose to themselves from a Truce
thus rendered abortive. Whilst this system is pursued, it will
be of great consequence to press hard for a superior marine
force to cover these Southern waters — I well know your
philanthropy, and I am sure that you will exert every
power you possess to prevent the immediate ruin of this
State and of course the danger that will ensue to the rest —
let the friends to the South, and the eastern wise Men
be assembled, and consider of this plan - let it be proposed
& pushed into immediate execution in Congress. The
time is short, the dangers pressing, and commensurate
remedies are indispensable. The influence, the judgment
the experience of General Washington will command
infinite exertions here — but then he ought to be well
supported with all that Congress can do. We have some
reason to fear that our collected stores in the North forts

of James River under protection of Baron Steuben with
the new levies have been raised and destroyed by a sup
force of the enemy — You advise me to use all my fri
— I have used every influence to secure my Country,
those among whom I live are sufficiently Zealous in
the people of this Country are dispersed over a great ext
of Land and unhappily we have no press in the Sta
as we hear that the last remaining one has been ta
near Charlottesville — God bless you — Let other bus
keep until this is put in a full and fair way.

Sincerely and affectionately yours.

Chantilly June 11 D. 1781

[illegible] to create discord and dissention
among the [illegible] For myself having little but my
good wishes to send you [illegible] to take up
attention a moment with them. The contents of this letter will I am
sure require no apology, because you always approve that conduct
which is employed in the public interest, or for the object of
public good. The present state of our country [illegible] is such as to
demand the most immediate and most effectual interposition to
prevent the [illegible] of Virginia from becoming means
in the hands of [illegible] for subduing the liberties of North America.
For tho the efforts of this State have been not quite so strong as its
abilities warranted, yet when it shall be fully under the sword
of a Conqueror, such resources will be found, and such powers drawn
from it, as will fix the liberties of North America in eminent peril.
My following opinion is not founded upon [illegible] apprehensions,
but upon [illegible] attention [illegible] Virginia it is
true has some [illegible] but they are dispersed, undisciplined, without system, government and
[illegible] very little probability [illegible] of the Legislature of assembling.
There are [illegible] army [illegible] in the heart of the country, employing with
expedition and secrecy every [illegible] force and fraud can muster
to effect a conquest of the whole [illegible] immediately.

Yr

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I think so that they will succeed if adequate succours be speedily applied. When the enemies army began to move after the junction of their troops, in force much superior to the Marquis, the Assembly adjourned to Charlottesville, where they were all the next day met members sufficient to form the Legislature before they were dispersed by 800 of the enemies light horse with as many light infantry mounted behind as we learn from some of the flying delegates. The Governor has resigned his office, but no successor has been appointed under the Dictatorial. Governor & Council have made a surrender and released upon parole, whilst they [illegible] a meeting of the Assembly at Staunton in the progress of their choice of a Governor to fill the vacancy occasioned by the feeble remedy which [illegible] a time when the most wise and most vigorous administration of the public affairs is absolutely necessary to save us from the ruin determined for us by the enemy. I have taken the liberty of communicating my thoughts on this subject to Colonel [illegible] in a letter, copy of which I have now the honor to enclose you, together with a letter from your brother who is now with me. I am of the same sentiment, and sincerely believe there is not a good citizen of America to the liberty of America in this state who doubts but that the plan proposed may be immediately adopted. I have written in the same manner to Colo. Bland and Mr. [illegible] of the goodly Fabrics of human pattern which you [illegible] should on one unlucky moment be [illegible] with the dust. The [illegible] nothing I think more certain than that your personal call would [illegible] the [illegible] and the wishes of this state and its neighbouring [illegible] which direct he will effectually disappoint and baffle the designs of the enemy. [illegible]

have mounted a gallant and numerous cavalry of 8 or 900 men. We have plenty of horses, tolerable, but we are deficient in proper accoutrements. We understand that the Marquis is endeavouring to mount a thousand men as quickly as possible to controul the boundless ravage of the enemies horse. Some of the dispersed delegates report it as extremely probable that our collected stores in the north fork of James river have fallen into the enemies hands, as their cavalry were a little above, and the main body of their army not far below directing its course to the north fork which was guarded only by 7 or 800 new levies under Baron Steuben.

Our country is truly Sir in a deplorable way, and if relief comes not from you it will probably come not at all — I have heard it reported in this country that Gen. Wayne dislikes being commanded by the Marquis — if this should be unhappily true, the consequences will be obvious to you.

I have the honor to be with sentiments of the most perfect esteem dear Sir, your most affectionate friend and most obedient servant,

Richard Henry Lee.

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Whereas a commission passed Congress on the
15th of June 1781, joining the Hon^ble Benjamin
Franklin, John Jay, Henry Laurens & Thomas
Jefferson Esq^rs with the Hon^ble John Adams
Esq^r as Ministers plenipotentiary to nego-
ciate a treaty of peace with the King of Great
Britain — and whereas it has appeared to
Congress that the putting more than one
in a commission for negotiating treaties is pro-
ductive of jealousies & disputes injurious to the
public service, & that the Hon^ble Benjamin
Franklin has written against the Hon^ble John
Jay from whence it is reasonable to believe
that the necessary harmony & confidence will
not exist between these Gentlemen as joint
Negociators: and as not only these evils may be
apprehended from such a numerous appoint-
ment, but a great increase of expence must
necessarily follow from it — be it therefore
resolved that the said commission, so far
as it relates to the Hon^ble B. Franklin, John
Jay, Henry Laurens & Th^s Jefferson Esq^rs be,
& it is hereby revoked; the rest to remain in
full force & effect.

Resd That a Commission be made out conveying
the Hon^ble John Adams Esq^r alone, the Powers a
vey'd to him jointly with the Hon^ble Benjamin
Franklin, John Jay, Henry Laurens, & Th^s Jef
ferson Esq^rs by the Commission of the 15^th Jan^y
1781.

Adams's Letter
of 20 June 1782
Desp when a 6 months
Term as Minister
shall cease & expire
Ten Years? Dissolve
1781

(20)

Fredericksburg June 15th 1781

My dear Sir

I am favored with your 14th Inst. and find myself happy in having an Officer in the Lower parts that gives satisfaction; Nothing but an absolute Necessity will at any time induce the Marquis to draw a single man from the North side of Rappahanoc, he is well informed of their exposed situation, and when they were on this occation drawn together, it was on a Supposition that this Quarter would be attacked; and Nothing saved us from a visit but a fortunate Circumstance in taking up all the Boats of the Marquis's ^ post and removing every thing from town that might be an Object, of which they got Intelligence and instantly struck at Charlotts Ville. Neither finishing so far south Suggested to the Marquis the propriety of sending the Troops under my Command to the Cultivation of their Fields under certain restrictions, I am this Morning favored with his approbation and have given Directions Accordingly they will continue on Service till call'd off which will not be till Danger of a serious nature appears. in the mean time their present Arrangement had better be

2

continued which will add more Security to
the internal Defence of their own Counties. Should
a Party of Plunderers Visit your, I reserve this I
leave to your own good Judgment, well knowing
your Prudence and Activity in Times of Alarm. A
general Inspection, and close Attention for a few
Months longer will Render pretty Certain make us
a healthy People. With respect to our Operations
on James River I refer you to Mr. Lee who is
now with me. Your Letters to Congress were dis-
=patched for Express. I have every Appearence of
a plentiful Crop of Corn by the 1st of Next
Month, under these Circumstances I hope you to
on the Big Knife expreate themself - Congress have
Ordered on 3 Battalions of British from Maryland
and A from Pennsylvania to embark, and
Maylands Dragoons are now on their March -

I am endeavouring to form a small Legion
of Horse and Foot, young men with no Families &
Volunteers, for the General protection of the Lower
Counties; pray add your influence they will
Cover the Country in time of Harvest, and give the
Planters and Farmers Opportunity to Cultivate their
Fields. Capt. Nelson has Several Instructions in
that Regard. I am with the greatest respect & Esteem

Dear Sir
your Obt Servt
G Weedon

G. Weedon Letter
15th June 1781

Zach. White
Richd. Maginnis
Sam. Stevens
Henry Asbury
Wm. Asbury sen
Jr

Chas. Pickens Harry Lee

Wm. Pickens

Chas. Lee 1701

Arthur Lee Esq

Bordeaux 25 June 1781

Sir

I am without the favor of a line from you since your departure from Boston The operations on this side are carrying on in the Old plan say at Petersburg. La Rochelle has obtained an arrest sur Seeance for a limited time by which he suspends his payments he reports the United States stand indebted to him great Sums he is very liberal in his invectives against Congress who he says has defrauded him by their resolution of accepting in payment the Paper Emissions at the rate of 40 pr 1 in payment of Taxes by which their millions are reduced to their just Value

M. J. Adams makes great progress in Holland his Loan was signd without difficulty and the States General have in Consideration the Memorial for a Treaty of Commerce Le Ch. we doubt not will soon take place

M. J. J. has been refused from Seeance to Seeance there has been

been some late overtures but of their Success I am not
certain. Spain is greatly allarmd at an insurrection
in Peru they are sending a considerable Body of Troops
to Buenoaries this will force them to detatch the Forces
which Otherways would be imployd against England —
Russia has not declard further than the protection
of the Neutrality in which Holland stands conected but as
an offencive War is spend with Holland since the
signing of the Treaty it was expected Russia and the
other northern States would judge themselves attackt
this Holland and would openly espouse the Quarel
The Resignation of Mr Necker at this day has
given a great wound to the Credit of government as
yet the effect is not felt more Jolly having found 150
Millions in the Treasury but at the first appearance of
an Impot the Cry will be universal Necker having
demonstrated without any additional Tax he would
defray the War as long as it could be carried on by
England The L.d's England has retained in the East Indies
are Mortal

are mortal cutting off the resources for funding the late loans and unfunded arrears notwithstanding Stocks keep at or near their former par until a General Engagement takes place betwixt the two Fleets England will support her consequence. if it is expected the Fleets of Spain & France will unite in the Month of July they will as formerly greatly exceed in Number the Ships Britain can equip and from different measures in the Abilities of the Commanders may be effected different consequences.

The Emperor is at Bruxelles his travelling gives subject to various conjectures ~~[illegible]~~ sundry restraints formerly laid on the Ports of Austrian Flanders which circumstances makes favorable to his obtaining the revocation of ~~[illegible]~~ Holland is supposed the principal subject of his Journey— The German Troops to recruit the Troops in America escaped the Vigilance of the Dutch. The Stadtholder is much reflected for not being greater diligence in the Equipment of the Navy intended to intercept them, we are alarmed for the safe of the Ship Marquis de la fayette on Board of which was the Cloathing laid in by J. W—n— she was very unfit for so Valuable a charge and particularly the Goods being such a Leary American

in

no great distress from the want of them: it would have been much more advantages to have sent over the Supplies in Packets sending the quantity pro rata to each Ship which sailing Monthly would have been in time to answer the wants the ensuing fall should a miscarriage happen to their adventure the consiquence may prove very fatal unless our good Ally the King of Holland furnish to replace those who are lible prospect of being replaced from France in a very moderate time. And the Channel in which all warlike affairs have been of late transacted, I could wish to have a similar commission to operate distinct from any controle on their side that I might by my vigilance give proofs of the advantages which would accrue from the offer I last the liberty to tender to Congress last December say of Building 8 Packets and keeping them continually under way so that one should carry Month from Europe & from America on board of which to Ship Cloathing and other stores that Congress might Judge fitting to Commission.

We are afraid Virginia has met with so heavy a Burthen by the Invasion of the Enemy that her Enemies during Arms. Hond Sir Should we are without any Return for the Sum due by them to us

With respect & Esteem
I have the Hon. Sir &c.

Copy of a Private letter from the Sec.y of Congress to the Sup.t of Finance

June 29th. 1781.

1781 48

Sir.

The Report of the Com.e appointed to State the Amount of public Debts, & to estimate the Expences of the current-year, which was agreed to by Congress on the 18th. of April last, of which you have been furnished with a Copy, will give you a general View of the Requisitions from the States, and on which Congress rely for the Operations of the present Campaign. But enable you to judge how far those Requisitions are likely to be productive, it may not be amiss to state more particularly & analize the several Requisitions, beginning with that of March 18th 1780. By this Act it was intended to draw in the whole of two hundred Millions old Currency which had been emitted, & in lieu thereof to issue ten Millions of dollars, four Millions of which were to be subject to the Orders of Congress, & applied to the general defence, — Reserving six Millions were to belong to the several States in proportion to the Sums assessed upon each. —

The following Table will show the Sums of old Money to be brought in by the several States, the Sums of new Money to be issued in lieu thereof; and also the Sum of the new Money, which the several States were to have received for their own Use, and the Sum reserved for the general defence, & which were subject to the Orders of Congress

Old Money to be brought in by the several States by the Act of 18th. March 1780 & to be cancelled.		New Money to be issued.	6/10 belongs to the State	4/10 subject to the orders of Congress.
New Hampshire	5,200.00	260,000	156,000	104,000
Massachusetts —	29,900,000	1,495,000	897,000	598,000
Rhode Island —	2,600,000	130,000	78,000	52,000
Connecticut —	22,100,000	1,105,000	663,000	442,000
New York — —	9,750,000	487,500	292,500	195,000
New Jersey —	11,700,000	585,000	351,000	234,000
				(Pennsylvania)

Pensylvania	29,900,000	1,495,000	897,000	598,000
Delaware	2,210,000	110,500	66,300	44,200
Maryland	20,540,000	1,027,000	616,200	410,800
Virginia	32,500,000	1,625,000	975,000	650,000
North Carolina	13,000,000	650,000	390,000	260,000
South Carolina	15,600,000	780,000	468,000	312,000
	193,000,000	9,750,000	5,850,000	3,900,000

But as South Carolina from the Invasion of the Enemy has not had in its power to take any Measures for complying with this Act its Quota ought to be deducted, viz:

15,600,000 — 780,000 — 468,000 — 312,000.

179,400,000 — 8,970,000 — 5,382,000 — 3,588,000.

Hence it appears that unless there are further Measures devised for calling it in, there will remain of the old Money in Circulation the Sum of 20,600,000: and that the United States can only calculate upon 3,588,000 Dollars of the new Emission. If North Carolina shd also fail, and there is but too much reason to fear it will then there will remain of the old Money in Circulation the Sum of of 33,600,000: and there will only be emitted of the new Money the Sum of 8,320,000; Of which 3,320,000 only will be subject to the Order of the Und States. New York from its Situation and Circumstances will stand in need of some Assistance & Indulgence. It has made Application to Congress for Leave to apply the 4/10 arising from its Quota to the discharge of the Debts due to its Inhabitants for ordinary Supplies furnished to the Army. This has not been complied with in express Terms, but I believe Congress have been sparing in their Draughts on the Loan Officer

(of)

Of the States and the Draughts made have been principally applied to the purposes above mentioned. — The following Table will show the State of the Accounts as it stands in the Books of the Treasury Office June 4th. 1784. —

Commissioners of Loan Office for States. —	Amo. of the 4/10 subject to orders of Congress	Amo. of Warrants drawn	Balances due
Nicho. Gilman, New Hampshire	104,000	53,144 60/90	50,855 30/90
Nathl. Appleton, Massachusetts	598,000	437,595 61/90	160,404 29/90
Joseph Clarke, Rhode Island	52,000	47,863	4,137
Wm. Imlay, Connecticut. —	442,000	185,433 81/90	256,566 59/90
Mc. Yates, New York —	195,000	103,659 8/90	91,340 82/90
Josh. Borden, New Jersey	234,000	153,877 73/90	80,122 17/90
Tho. Smith, Pensylvania	598,000	459,286 77/90	138,713 13/90
Saml. Patterson, Delaware	44,200	27,099	17,101
Tho. Harwood, Maryland	410,800	225,273 73/90	185,526 17/90
John Hopkins, Virginia	650,000	264,017 20/90	385,982 60/90
	3,328,000	1,957,250 53/90	1,370,749 37/90

On the 26th Augt. 1780 it was earnestly recommended to the States to take the most speedy & effectual Measures for drawing in their respective Quotas of the continental Bills to be destroyed, that the new Money might be issued; & the several States were called upon for a new Tax of Three Millions of dollars payable in Bills emitted pursuant to the Act of the 18th. of March 1780, or in Specie, and to pay the same into the continental Treasury as soon as possible, the payment to be completed by the last day of Decr. 1780. The apportionment to the States was to be agreeable to that of the

(Seventh)

Second of Octr 1779, as follows. Lt.

New Hampshire	90,000	Pensylvania	460,000
Massachusetts	460,000	Delaware	34,000
Rhode Island	40,000	Maryland	316,000
Connecticut	340,000	Virginia	500,000
New York	150,000	North Carolina	200,000
New Jersey	180,000	South Carolina	240,000
			3,000,000

Georgia being treated not excused for the present. —

From the Situation of Affairs in North Carolina and South Carolina, I am apprehensive no reliance is to be placed on their Quotas. —

The following is a State of this Account according to the Returns from the Board of Treasury, dated 4th June 1781. —

		Sums drawn for or allowed	Proportion
New Hampshire	90,000		90,000
Massachusetts	460,000	224 63/90	459,775 87/90
Rhode Island	40,000		40,000
Connecticut	340,000		340,000
New York	150,000	18,825	131,175
New Jersey	180,000	5,149	174,851
Pensylvania	460,000	13,740	446,260
Delaware	34,000		34,000
Maryland	316,000		316,000
Virginia	500,000	1,200	498,800
North Carolina	200,000		200,000
South Carolina	240,000		240,000
	3,000,000	39,138 63/90	2,960,861 27/90

But if the Quotas of the North and South Carolina are deducted from

(this)

This balance, when there will only remain 2,520,8b1. $\frac{2}{90}$ and of this Sum I am inclined to think some of the States have applied a part towards the payment of Interest due on loan Office Certificates, & some other of the States will have charges to make for forwarding or transporting provisions agreeable to the recommendation of the 14th. May last, & possibly for some other Services performed. Of these no Account is yet rendered. —

On the 4th of Novr 1780, the States were called upon to levy in the proportions hereafter mentioned a tax equal in Value to six Millions of Silver dollars to be paid partly in specific Articles at prices therein fixed & partly in gold or Silver, or Bills emitted pursuant to the Act of 18th. of March 1780, viz —

	For specific Supplies	In Money	Whole amount
New Hampshire	120,290	47,623	173,913
Massachusetts	726,168 1/3	273,831 2/3	1,000,000
Rhode Island &c.	63,159 1/3	23,797 2/3	86,957
Connecticut	536,730 2/3	202,399 1/3	739,130
New York	236,792	89,295	326,087
New Jersey	284,152	107,152	391,304
Pensylvania	726,167 1/3	273,832 2/3	1,000,000
Delaware	53,672 1/3	20,240 2/3	73,913.
Maryland	498,845 1/3	188,111 2/3	686,957.
Virginia	789,312.	297,645	1,086,957
North Carolina	315,723	119,080	434,803.
Total	4,357,012 1/3	1,642,987 2/3	6,000,000

This Requisition being for the Service of the year 1781, the States were called on to furnish the Articles required in given Quantities in Jan.y, March, May & July & to pay the Money called for in four quarterly Paym.ts. the 1st. Paym.t to be made on the first day of May 1781. —

(What)

What proportion of the Vehicles are furnished I cannot say as the Commissary Genl. has made no Returns. But from the Return of the Board of treasury of the 4th. of June 1781. it appears that no payments in Money have been made by any of the States, consequently the whole Sum of 1, 642, 987 2/3 remains due. One Quarter part of which viz. 410, 746 67/90 1/2 dollars, payable the first of May last ought to be called for.

On the 8 Jany 1781, as our Prisoners in the power of the Enemy were suffering for want of Necessaries, called upon the States from New Hampshire to North Carolina inclusive to procure & forward to the Treasurer of the Un. States or to the Comy of Prisoners appointed to reside at New York, by the first day of March 1781. for the use of the Officers in Captivity at that place & on Long-Island the following Sums in Specie or Bills of Exchange on some Merchant in New York, viz

Newhampshire	2, 319.	Pensylvania	13. 334
Massachusetts	13. 334	Delaware	987
Rhode Island	1. 160	Maryland	9, 159
Connecticut	9, 855	Virginia	14. 492
New York	4. 347	North Carolina	5, 797
New Jersey	5. 217		

Amounting in the whole to 80, 000 dollars. No part of this has been paid into the continental Treasury. Whether any part has been transmitted to the Comy of Prisoners at New York I cannot undertake to say. But this matter shd. be enquired into.

On the 15th. of Jany 1781, The States from New Hampshire to Pensylvania both inclusive, were called upon for their respective Quotas of 879, 342 for the immediate pay of Arrears due to the Army.

But by a Letter I have this day received from the Board

(of)

Of Treasury I find that Warrants were drawn for that sum on the Commissioners of the Loan Offices of those States, and that it was paid out of the $\frac{4}{10}$ reserved for the use of Congress, & consequently has no effect on the Requisitions from the States: —

On the 16th March last the States were called upon for a further Sum of six Millions of dollars to be paid quarterly. The first quarterly payment amounting to one Million five hundred thousand dollars, to be made on the first day of June

The Quota of each State was fixed as follows.

New Hampshire	46,000 3/4	The 4 quarterly payments	184,323
Massachusetts	264,965 3/4		1,059,863
Rhode Island	29,146 1/4		116,585
Connecticut	195,844 1/4		783,377
New York	43,200 3/4		172,803
New Jersey	103,682		414,720
Pensylvania	264,965 3/4		1,059,863
Delaware	24,480, 1/4		97,921
Maryland	182,026 3/4		728,107
Virginia	288,006 1/2		1,152,026
North Carolina	57,601		230,404
Total	1,500,000		6,000,000

It is to be observed that the Sums assessed are not to be considered as the just Proportion of any State, but being paid into the Treasury are to be placed to their respective Credits, & to bear an Interest of six per Cent. p Annum from the time of Payment until the Quotas shall be finally ascertained agreeably to the Articles of Confederation; & if it shall then appear that any State is assessed more than its just Quota of the Taxes called for, it shall continue to receive Interest on the Surplus, and if less it shall be charged with the Interest on the deficiency until by a future Tax such Surplus or

(deficiency)

Deficiency shall be adjusted. —

It may be proper to observe, that on the 25th. of Feby 17[illegible] session Congress called for specific Supplies from the States they had in Contemplation the raising certain Articles to be shipped in order to discharge some debts due in the West Indies, to provide a fund for defraying the Expences of their Ministers [illegible] & for paying the Interest of Money borrowed abroad, and therefore among the specific Articles, Maryland was called on for 4000 Hhds. of Tobacco & Virginia for 3000 By a Letter from the Govr. of Virga. some time last fall I find that Measures were taken by that State for providing the Quan required. But as nothing has ever been done in that Matter the whole 7000 Hhds remain & may be applied to such Purposes as you judge proper. —

Requisitions

The above is the best Account I can give you of the several Requisitions of Money & Supplies from the States. & I hope you are stated with such Precision as will enable you to call upon the States, and to press a Compliance with the Requisition

I am Sir

Your obedient humble Servt

Chas Thomson —

R. Morris Esqr

Superintendant of Finance.

Gov. Jefferson to Col. R. H. Lee
C. L. of Militia
May 29 1781
His answer on the back.
No 97

Sir, (No 373) June 30. 1781

His Excellency the Governor having received information that a considerable number of Men have deserted from the army & navy of his most Christian Majesty in America whom the Commanding Officers are very desirous to have apprehended And his Excellency having charged me to give orders at the several ferries in this County that all foreigners offering to cross at the several ferries in this at them having the appearance of Soldiers or Seamen shall be examined with great strictness and if there be good reason to believe them to be deserters that they be stopped and secured You are hereby directed to observe a conduct conformable to the Governors orders in the premises at your ferry, and to cause persons of the above description to be secured and delivered to the Officer of the Guard upon the Cannons at Nomony ferry who is hereby commanded to receive all such into his safe keeping under a military guard until he shall inform me thereof, and receive further orders concerning such prisoners —

I am Sir your very humble
Servant R. H. Lee C. L. M.

To Dr. Thos. Thomson
Keeper of Nomony Upper ferry

1781

Dear Sir, Boston July 4th 1781

Two days ago I had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 15th Ult.
I began to suspect that all my Letters to you had miscarried: had you received those of a more recent date you would have been informed that every attention had been paid by me to get the Land laid out. some Accident prevented it last Fall after which it could not be done till late in the Spring or beginning of Summer. I believe the Gentlemen are now on the Business. the next Sessions I hope will finish the whole —
Bridget undoubtedly did wrong. The Court will never miss her &c. to Injure you, but they can avail themselves of so little Advantage from this discovery that all their Movements will only expose their own Malice without hurting you. I think the whole matter too trifling to give you any Uneasiness — Your Observation upon the political State of our affairs. I believe are Just, & therefore painful to a Man who

never had any thing in view but the Interest & happiness of his Country. I own it would have cooled my ardor if I could have foreseen that the Conduct of our affairs would have fallen into such Hands. or that such an Influence would have prevailed at so early a period. But what is to be done, must not the same virtuous Exertions be made to counteract them that were at first made to set the wheels a going? if this Country is finally saved, I shall be more convinced than ever that a few are intitled to the Honor which perhaps neither Gratitude or Justice will ever Insure to them. I hope my Friends in Virginia will escape the Calamities they are threatned with. you will please to make my Compliments to them & all the Staunch Friends to the Cause of America. Continue to write to me & be assured that I am your Friend &

Most Humb. Serv.

Thos Lee.

Copy

Amsterdam July 5. 1781.

Sir

Lest your Excellency should not have already answered the letters which I did myself the honor to address you on the 2d. instant — I beg leave in addition to the arguments therein enforced, (which I hope have of themselves proved sufficiently urgent) to remark to your excellency that the detention of the ship is attended with a very considerable expence — that the delay arising therefrom in retarding the supplies so pressingly wanted in America, at this time, is of so injurious a nature to the common interest as to demand [illegible] your immediate assent to my request of repealing those orders to Messrs. Fiseaux & Co. which prevents these from delivering the money which Colonel Laurens after every exertion on his part obtained from the Court of France for the express and stipulated purpose of its being

sent

sent to America by the conveyance of Commodore Gillon's ship to reanimate the credit of the Continental currency and for the transportation of which, by Mr. Necker's order from France to Holland a very considerable expence has been in[curred] to the Continent — It is impossible aswell[as] proper to express, every thing by letter, and an [accident] (the effect of my last jaunt) [will] permit me to make a second journey to [Versailles] but as the ultimatum to this [question] — should your excellency refuse to withdraw [your] order to Mr. Fiseaux — in that case I must [write] elsewhere — produce Colo. Laurens's instruct[ions] to me — his dispatches to Congress — and so remove this uncer[tainty] of their intentions and Colonel Laurens's public arrangements.

Such a journey I am sensible in the present situation of my health, will injure me exceedingly — but I am resolved to renounce

every

every private consideration, and to sacrifice all personal convenience to the due discharge of my public trust, which I will not resign but by the express command of those who conferred it — The daily enhancement of expence to the United States from these difficul=
=ties is worthy the ion of those whose duty it is to aconomise public money — and who whom the common is entrusted without de=
=ranging the depar of another

I have the honor to be
with Excellency's
Most Obed.t Humble Serv.t
W.m Jackson

Papers used in
Chapter 4th of
Memoir of A. Lee

(His correspondence on the subj.
of the calamities of the
enemies — the
Mem. to the F. Ld
Autograph of K. of
Prussia

Last Prussian affairs
~~the King's reply to Mr Lee the~~
~~Memorial~~ Mr L's letter to the
Washington — the Kings reply
to Mr L's Mem. are to be
inserted in the Memoir —
~~Despatches from Virginia the~~
~~first notice of Va~~
Letters to Dr Smith &c

Camp near Dobbs Ferry
July 15th 1781

Dear Sir;

— — The moving state in which the Army was, at the time your letter of the 12th Inst. came to hand. — The Junction of the allied troops, which upon the [illegible] of Count [illegible] — and a variety of Matters which have occurred since that period [illegible] in consequence of this Junction [illegible] with a disinclination to continue a correspondence the benefits of which have been in my favor. — The occasions of having given you first cause to change the favourable sentiments you have expressed for me I could not suppose you had altered from [illegible] and as I [illegible] suffer[illegible] sorts, unsupported by proofs, to [illegible] your mind. I know no reason why our correspondence should cease, or become less frequent than heretofore, except on my part, that as our affairs became more perplexing & embarrassed the public claimed more of my attention & consequently left me less leisure for private & social services — That this has been the case in

it as eminent degree for sometime [illegible]
a Gentleman as well acquainted with [illegible]
lic affairs as you are, need not be told

The distress of Virginia can
but too well acquainted with — the pla
you have suppested as a relief for it, is
greater proof of your unbounded confid
in me than like this Book proposed
means would be found
adequate to the end in view were it practica
ble to make the experiment, which, a
present circumstances, as there are insuper
able obstacles to my change from the
command of the combined troops
here. — The reasons for this opinion I cannot
at present trust to paper — at all times liable
to miscarriage, & peculiarly so of late

I am fully persuaded however
upon Military principles, that the me
sures I have adopted with you are the most
effectual & speedier relief to the State of
Virginia than if I was to march thither
with dictatorial powers at the head of
every man I could draw from hence with
out leaving the important posts on the
North River defenseless, & the whole state of
to devastation & carnage. — What I say I
would be understood to mean — if [illegible]
properly supported (and I have asked no
extraordinary measures) by the States [illegible]

ward of Jersey, exclusive — My present
operation and which I have been prepa
ring for with all the steal activity in
my power, while I am morally certain of
one one of two things — the fall of New York
or a withdraw of the Troops, except a
garrison at Portsmouth all which pla
ces are now devoted to the enemy. — intention
to establish a permanent post — [illegible]
— A Letter dated March, in which we have
never failed to dissipate Lafayette mea. —
the difficulty, & expence of transportation,
— and other reasons not less powerful bu
ied me in my present plan. — My hope
must with you be disappointed. —

I Lafayette hourly conversation.
could I flatter myself, convince you
of the utility of my measure, but as I have
before observed, I dare not attempt
it by letter, because I already have had two or three
of my letters intercepted in the
mail the object of which I am persua
ded occasioned the retrograde move
of Lord Cornwallis, & with the means of
keeping part of his force to New York. —
to the accomplishment of one part of my
plan. —

The fatal policy of short enlistm
of the Seamen, cause of all our misfortu
— the

—the prolongation of the war — and of
immense debt under which we labour
is ours shedding etc. tender feelings
& I am labouring under all the disadv
tages & evils which result from Rep
tation — I can see no new
ter you that by the expiration of the te
of enlistment I was left, last winter
a force so much reduced as to be scarc
able to garrison Westpoint, but it is
left but has surprising to you to lea
that not half the men which were
quired to be with the army as recru
for the Continental Batt^n, by the first
of Jany, last are yet arrived — and
have asked by me from the Militia,
are to come.

But a few words more & I ha
to the conclusion of mine. I have wa
to obtain a supplemental general
these laws — to explain that which
are dark & to value & pleasure the
part I have succeeded in better is be
for obvious reasons than any
is accomplished with the time a
discover. — with great esteem a
regard I remain

Dear — Yours most Obed^t
Humble Serv^t

G Washington

(№374) (Copy & communication)

My dear Sir. Camp on the Hyd. hills of
Santee - July 24th 81

I received your Lr. in answer to mine
by Capt. Evans.

The late reinforcement from England
& Ireland amounted to 2500 men &
arrived in a most critical juncture.

The siege of ninety six which had
been hurried with the utmost vigor
was nearly at a period, as our
approaches were almost completed.

Lord Rawdon left us time on
leaving his lands strengthened, to
move towards the relief of that
very important post. If you examine
the map of this country, you will
find ninety six especially valuable
to the enemy as it is centrical to

a rich population both country, & com-
mands the settlements between the
Salunda & broad rivers, at the same
time it renders the possession of the
country on the Congaree more secure,
& communicates with Ft Ninety Six without
the intervention of any considerable river.
To possess Cambden the Santee or the
Congaree must be passed: to keep an-
possession the Savannah must be kept.

These were * difficulties which our
circumstances placed the en-
emy to encounter. Every effort was
used by Gen. Greene to harass the enemy
on their Carolina march & thereby delay their
approach. The Militia under Gen Sumpter
were collected: the small body of them
which arrived in season were joined

to the cavalry of the army & put
under L.t Col. Hay Lupton to meet &
difficult the progress of his Lordship.
These measures availed nought &
the near approach of the foe obliged
Genl Greene to relinquish the siege.

Previous to which, our works
being far advanced, the General
attempted a storm. This design
was taken on the most principles,
& the operation was executed with
the most brilliant gallantry. Our
success was partial: & the ensuing
morning the troops occupied the
Suburbs

Lord Rawdon was in 15 miles
& followed us rapidly. The pursuit
was vain, & his Lordship after two

days adjourne retired to ninety six
General Greene having received
a small reinforcement, & gathered
some militia made a forward move-
ment. The Legion was directed to Cey
clope to the enemy. In this posture
of things Lord Rawdon determined
to relinquish ninety six, & of course
the whole back country. This was the
great point for which we had been
contending: to induce his Lordship to
which, all our measures were
pointed. Lord Rawdon moved in
two divisions, each equal to our
collected strength, only in cavalry, in
which we had a superiority in
number as well as quality.

Col. Cruger commanded the rear division & continued at ninety-six till his Lordship joined the post on the Congaree formerly fortified.

Gen. Greene moved with the utmost vigilance to reach the enemy before a junction could be effected.

While Lord Rawdon lay on the Congaree the squadron of the Jersey cavalry obtained a complete victory over the British horse, made fifty prisoners, & destroyed the whole body, two only excepted. Captain Eggleston has the honor of this enterprize. After this event, his Lordship removed his march: Col. Cruger was

obliged to file off to his right, &
taking his route on the south side
of the Edisto river, General Greene
being so far advanced, as to intercept the direct road. our army
crossed the congaree & followed his
Lordship by forced marches, anxious
to bring him to battle in his divided state. We came up with the
British army at Orangeburg which
is a small village on the south
side of the Edisto, with a bridge
over the river at the town.

The position is most strong,

& has the uncommon advantage, a
certain retreat by means of the
bridge, which circumstance deny the
least improvement to victory: a large
brick jail commands the bridge &
the ground so close & broken that
Cavalry cannot act.

These reasons obliged General
Greene to reject his intention of
attacking the enemy in their camp,
& Lord Rawdon would not hazard
an action by advancing to us.

Baffled in this favourite wish, it was
necessary to adopt measures which promised
to produce the same end. For "altho' we

Lord recovered all the back country, & had
had the satisfaction of chasing Lord Rawdon
from the Congaree, we plainly saw
that on the junction of Greene the enemy
would advance & that we should be under
the necessity of yielding the Congaree, or
risking an unequal action. We also
wished to force them to leave Orange-
burgh & to compress them to Charlestown &
its dependencys, that our wearied soldiers
might repose during the hot weather
in a healthy country, & that the enemy
might be subject from their position to
all the disadvantages of the climate.
North corner & Dorchester are the two points

which compreheded the country necessary for
the ready support of Chs Town: the first is 30
miles distant from the town towards the Santee
on Cooper river: the latter is in front of
the town 20 miles distant on Ashley river.
at this time the enemy had 550 infantry
& 100 cavalry at Monks corner & a Capt.
command at Dorchester.

Gen. Greene determined on
being disappointed in buying land hawser
& Cattle, to move his army to Jamaica
Quarters, & to form a detachment to
strike at Monks corner. The army accordingly
is moved to this place, the most healthy
in the state; & the detachment formed
under Gen Sumpter (of which the Legion

was fort) marched towards Munk Gowan.
to cover Gen. Sumpter fully, & to con-
ceal the enemy as to cause their intel-
ligence respecting, I was detached with a
body of horse with directions to move
towards Chester, & to act as circumstances
should adopt, afterwards to join Gen.
Sumpter. The full execution of
this enterprize caused to us all our
wishes: The troops moved off in high spi-
rits & the enemy, as we have experienced were
totally in the dark as to our intentions.
Lord Rawdon continued waiting at Orangeburgh
for Col. Crugen who joined two days after we
moved: Orangeburgh 11 or 12 miles Eastwards from Monk's
Corner. I am ever of this date Your brother

I will conclude the Journal of affairs here to the present day. (Copy to here)

I want much to hear from you about my cousin Aylette. He appears to me well calculated for the Sea Service: he does not relish the water – He is not fond of the Service, but would prefer acting as Land Officer to be a Midshipman in the army now, a thing nothing, as peculiarly as will give rank. To be candid I think could be forced into the navy and some good Lieut Ogilvie he may become great & useful – From his travel with the army. He has much improved; he is now arrived to

(Rec'd 64)
(No 374)

such an eye, that further Delay as to his
time of life must be dreadful.

Present my respects to your
Lady & give my love to my
Cousins.

Yours most affectionately

Thos Jefferson

Dft

1 Feb 95

B. of R. 1795

pourroient juger a propos de reclamer la garantie

Art. III.

Pour rendre les negociations, pacifiques independantes des evenemens toujours incertains de la guerre [illegible] arriveroient en [illegible], ou au moins [illegible] retarder les progrés il y aura une Armistice generale entre toutes les Parties pendant le terme d'une Année a compter du — du mois de — de l'année 1782. S'il arrivoit que la Paix generale ne fut point, retablie, dans le cours du premier terme, Et pendant la durée de l'un et de l'autre de ces deux termes; toutes choses devroient rester dans l'Etat ou elles se trouveront avoir été au jours de la signature des presentes Articles preliminaires.

The above were sent by the Court of St. James, to the mediators the Emperor & Empress of Russia & were by Count de Vergennes to Mr. J. Adams for his answer.

1781

Articles pour servir de Base a la negociation du retablissement de la paix.

Art. I. Il sera traité entre la grande Bte et les Colonies Americaines du retablissement de la Paix en Amerique mais sans l'intervention d'aucunes des autres parties belligerantes, ni même cette des deux Cours impériales a moins que leur Mediation n'ait été formellement demandée et accordée sur cet objet

Art. II. Cette Paix particuliere ne pourra cependant être signée que conjointement et en meme tems, avec celle des Puissances dont les interets auront été traités par les Cours mediatrices. Les deux Paix moyennant cela, quoiqu'elles pourront etre traitées separement ne devront point pouvoir etre conclues, l'une sans l'autre, on aura soins d'informer constamment les Mediateurs de la marche et de l'Etat de celle qui regarde la grande B. et les Colonies afin que la mediation soit la meme de pouvoir se regler pour la marche de celle qui lui est confié d'après l'état de la negociation relative aux Colonies et l'une a l'autre des deux pacifications qui auront été conclues en meme tems quoique separément devront etre solemnellement garanties par les Cours mediatrices, et toute autre Puissance neutre dont les Parties belligerantes

Received Letter referring to 2nd July 13, 1781. See Dipl. Corr. VI. 102.

Reserve for Confederation

51

July 14, 1781. R. Morris to Dr L—n about the Bank

1781

At the the very moderate Sum of 400000 Dlls is proposed as the first Capital, I intend to increase it gradually to ten times that Sum. ——

Do to Do. With those views I have directed Mr Jay to ask a considerable Sum from the Court of Madrid to be advanced us at the Havannah &c &c & thence by us.

R. Morris to Mr Jay— The use of this Office must depend on a progress towards the accomplishment of these two capital objects— the raising a revenue with the greatest ease to the people & the expenditure of it with the greatest Oconomy to the public— It is necessary to observe that the Sum of 5,000000 dlls, may perhaps be sufficient for our present emergences.

I mean that the Stock instead of 400000 dlls shall be 6,0 [illegible]0000 & perhaps more. +

+ I have copied these passages to shew the stupid vanity of the writer— to suppose the Court of Madrid, which was ipsuing depreciated Paper to to carry on the war, would lend us 50,000,000 in specie & to imagine that America could furnish 4,000000 was more like the dream of a Madman than any thing else— Mr Jay procured 500000 & no more & the U. S. furnished upwards of 300000 out of the 400000 & has not increased,

An additional reason for the Institution of the Bank is to supply the place of all other paper which it is my design to absorb as soon as possible.

To obtain for you still further assistance, I have applied — in the absence of M. la Luzerne who is gone to camp — to M. ~~Luzerne~~ de Marbois, for Letters to their Ambassador at the Court of Madrid. I have stated my wants my wishes & my hopes with that candor with that candour which is proper on such occasions. M. de Marbois has in consequence written a letter on the subject in which he informs the Ambassador of our conversation — states the disorder of our finances — & makes polite mention of my operations, my designs & my abilities.

as well as of the confidence reposed in me by Congress & by the people at large. He details the propos'd plans particularly those of the Bank & shews forcibly the advantages that that would result from a considerable advance of money by Spain. He assigns also very proper reasons, why it ought to be considerable if it be made at all. The great interest of France in this business as well as the open candid manner which has marked all the transactions I have hitherto had with the Minister of that Nation, induces me to believe that this letter is more than Compliment, & that as it is intended so it will operate to produce the desired effect.

R. Morris to R. Smith Esq. C. A. at Havannah July 17. 1781 — I am to observe, that when once by punctual payments the notes of the Bank have obtained full credit, the sum of these may be increased to two or three times the sum in Specie which is deposited By this means the Bank will have the interest of a Stock 203 times larger than what it really contains.

Dr Franklin to Robert Morris July 26th 1781.

But as M. Ferdinand Grand banker at Paris this brother Sir J. Grand banker in Holland have been our zealous & firm friends ever since our arrival in France, have aided us greatly by their personal ~~influence~~ interest & solicitations & have often been 6 or 700 000 ℔ in advance for us dare houses of unquestionable solidity, I cannot but be concern'd at any step for taking our business out of their hands, & with your future bills may be drawn on Mr. Ferdinand Grand; for I think it concerns our public reputation to preserve the character of gratitude as well as that of honesty & justice. The commission hitherto charg'd to us by Mr Grand for receiving & paying our money is an half per cent, which considering the trouble given by the vast number of small drafts for the interest of Loans appears to me a moderate consideration."

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My dear General Westmoreland August the 1st. 1781

Your express has just delivered me your letter which I shall immediately forward to Col. Gaskins — Foreseeing the probability of this storm bursting upon us I had twice within the last twelve days written to Col. Gaskins and earnestly press'd him & the Lieutenant of Lancaster to place intelligent & vigilant Lookouts upon the most projecting points of the Bay to descry & give notice by express of a fleet coming up the Bay that I might transmit the intelligence to you. Since the county was first invaded by Arnold we have had a string of Lookouts from the lower to the uppermost of this county, and you may be assured that no time shall be lost in transmitting to you the intelligence that I may receive from any of these sources. Before I received your letter this morning I had yesterday the honor to write you for a supply of Arms & ammunition — Lead was omitted, but we want that article at least as much as the Arms. Capt. Harperson informs me that Mr. Crawford of Leeds Town has now a small vessel at Fredericksburg to return immediately to Leeds — Be pleased Sir to cause enquiry to be made for that Vessel and compel the Shipper to bring down these Stores.

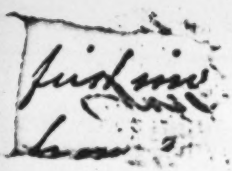
Indeed Capt. Harper says he thinks there will be no need of compulsion for that they will be glad of the freights and that the stores may that way be quickly and safely brought down. Yesterday evening I received a letter from the War Office dated the 24th of July giving the same intelligence & directions that you do - The Express returned without my seeing him, so that I have now written an answer to Col. Davies & beg the favor of you to transmit him the letter as quickly as you can. Capt. Alex. Parker lately from Charles Town, but immediately from Williamsburg, says the enemy had embarked 2000 men that they had sent out Vessels to reconnoitre the coast having heard that 8 french Ships were cruising off the Capes - they look like going to sea, but I own that I do not like the circumstance of taking the Bay & river pilots - Capt. Parker says they have cut up all the Corn in Princess Anne county to feed their embarked troops. Have you any news from North or South? Is New York really besieged? and if so, how do we succeed?

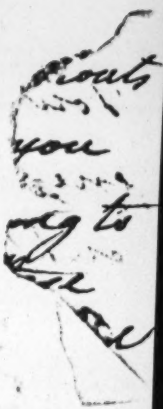
I am yours my dear General
very sincerely
Richard Henry Lee

P. S. There have come in and

surrendered themselves to me two Soldiers that were drafted for 10 months in April last, and deserted from the army soon after joining it – There being 3 or 4 more in the county whom I have given strict orders to have taken, I have furloughed the above two in hopes of getting the rest to send with them – but if my hopes should fail, what must I do with these two?

R. E. Lee





Honorable

General Weedon

at

Favored by
Mr. Lee } Fredericksburg

1781

Fredericksburg Aug. 22.

1701

Dear Colo

I am sorr. with ayours of 29th Instays
Date by Mr. Lee and rest perfectly Contented on
the score of Intelligence from the precautions ayou
have so wisely adopted. I informed ayou in a
previous Letter that a small Quantity of Arms and
Powder would at any time be sent ayou on ayour
Order. - Having no Continental Stores of a warlike
Nature at Present, have taken the Liberty of
sending ayou a Reinforcement the Inspector of
the State Levies which Stands of Course Ready to
Assist in Case of Invasion &c Government, they wishing the
Disposition of the Arms to be disposed according
to their own Ideas, at present Omit the Difficulties
that have occured in consequence of the Arrange-
ments in our State. They find it hard to dispose
them properly. Those Lowers furnished them
out of two Stand for the Use of the Militia
which at this time Lays at Orlands Ferry, and
will be brought forward as soon as Proper
Waggons, Horses will be Distributed by their
Order which will Obtain in favour of the
Counties who make their requisition to the
Executive, communicate this hint, to ayour
Brother Lieutenants in the four Lower Counties

by which means make our debt again is immediately put in Condition as to Cause. we have none. Paine represented it advisa[ble] [to] Government and was ever anxious they had mine to furnish, the Mint having failed, I am at a loss what to advise you to. on this head, and must leave it to your own discretion and activity. — The Northern mail being taken at or near Wilmington and carried to New York we have no Intelligence from that Quarter this week, The Operation before N. Y- [illegible] you may be well satisfied of a cessation Hostilities, Law for we have carried our Approach[es] [illegible] Lord Cornwallis Letters by the Delivery of the first order or some other Enemy. Inclosed is an official Notice from Gen. Greene, respects Surrender are favorable.

I am with kindest Esteem
and Affectionate
Yrs. A. Hamd
Wadsworth

Gen. Morrison Letter
D. August 1781

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Public Service.

Col. Richard Henry Lee.

Commanding in

Westmoreland County.

Aug 12 1781

Chancellor Livingston's
election to the Secretaryship of
Foreign Affairs.

Arthur Lee to Sam. Adams.

Phild.a 12th Aug. 1781.— "Chancellor Living=
ston, after much manoeuvring was elected on
friday last. Upon the first vote, Mass.— Con.—

N. J. – Del. – and Va, were for me, and three for the Chancellor; – on the second, Virginia was prevailed upon to throw away its vote, and the Chancellor had N. H, – R. I, – N. Y, – N. J, – S. C, – and Geo; – on the third, Mr Smith for this state (Penn.) with his senses hardly recovered from a fall which took them away entirely, was brought in, and in conjunction with Mr Clymer carried the election.

"By this success your worthy friend Mr Duane obtains three points; – he gratifies his malice against me, strengthens his interest with the French, and prepares a vacancy for himself in the Chancellorship of Newyork. In my opinion he has finessed upon the present Chancellor, who will quit a certainty for an uncertainty. This election is I think a very serious evil to the eastern states, and indeed to all. For I can assure you, that some things passed during the negotiation of the treaty, which convinced me that there are deep designs against the fisheries. Dr Franklin we all know is devoted to these designs. Mr Jay and Chancellor Livingston are both enemies to the eastern states, and therefore it is reasonable to apprehend that they will join with France in some article relative to the fishery, which, though injurious, will be ratified by the prevalence & a certain influence in Congress. I do not suppose Mr J. Adams will continue in the commission under its present form, or if he should he will be out-voted.

those New England delegates who voted for the Chancellor Lane, if I am not much mistaken, given a mortal blow to the most essential interests of their country.

"As to myself I think the event of the election is fortunate; for if I had been elected, it would have put me to the disagreeable alternative of disappointing the wishes of my friends, or entering into an administration where the financier (R. Morris) and probably the other ministers would have been in a cabal against me. The minister of France here (Luzerne) and in Europe the Min.r for foreign affairs at the court of Versailles (Vergennes) with our minister there (Franklin) and Mr Jay & Mr Carmichael at Madrid would have combined in endeavoring to embarrass & mislead me. These are all my avowed enemies; they are capable of everything to accomplish their purposes, and in such a situation I could not expect to do my country any service, nor even to escape disgrace and censure. It appears to me therefore, that I have had a fortunate escape. And when I consider that the whole influence of the French court, so powerful at this juncture, with that of Mr. Morris & Mr Duane (who having obtained absolution from the assembly of this state is returned with renewed purity & power) have been incessantly exerted against me, there is no humiliation in

the want of success. I calculate the French influence to have carried four States, - N. H. - R. I. - S. C. - Geo. decidedly. The same influence will be exerted to put Genl. Schuyler and Mr. Dougal into the War & Marine Dept. - and if this should succeed we shall have a complete Newyork administration constituted by the French. Governeur Morris is clearly appointed Deputy financier.

"It behooves the friends in America to look about them and bestir themselves. The plot is deep, the times are favorable to its success, and we may be fettered before we are aware. Shorn of our strength by a hand we do not suspect, it may be in vain hereafter to cry out the Philistines are upon us!" -

[Here we find Mr Lee indulging in his usual habit of throwing out suspicions calculated to scatter the seeds of discord, and injure the character of those, whom he chooses to call his enemies. Witness his remarks on Jay & Livingston in regard to the fisheries, and their hostility to New England. He was writing to Sam. Adams, who he knew was easily excited on these subjects, and whose opinions he thus attempts to bias unfavorably.

As Mr Lee acknowledges almost all the world to be his enemies, it is a little strange that he should not ask the cause of so remarkable a circumstance, and imagine that something may be owing to himself. This thought

never seems to strike him however, but he puts it all to the malignity of the long list of persons, whom he ranks among his foes.

His topics of consolation at the failure of his election are not a little amusing. How could he consent to run at all with such a formidable array of obstacles before his eyes? and especially if "in this situation he could not expect to do his country any service". One who boasts so much of his patriotism seeks with an ill grace a very important station, in which he is at the same time convinced he can render no service to his country, and thereby excluding some other person, who may be eminently useful.]

To his Excellency the President of Congress. Copy

Sir/ Agreeable to your request of the 13th Inst. I have the honor to transmit herewith the Extracts from the report of the Board of Admiralty, concerning the Alliance frigate, which Extracts I have just received after near a month's application; that Board remarks — "That it appears Capt. Landais retained the command of the Alliance by the advice of Mr. Lee, notwithstanding his suspension by Dr. Franklin, who, by the direction of the marine Committee, had the sole direction of our affairs in Europe. — Vide the report of the same Board relative to the Clothing & Military Stores destined for these States they say — That the Clothing & Stores not coming out in season, has not been owing in any measure to a want of the closest attention to that business either in the Minister Plenipo. of these States, or of Capt. Jones who on the contrary made every application and used every effort to accomplish that purpose; but that it was owing to Capt. Landais taking command of the Alliance contrary to the express orders of Mr. Franklin & proceeding with her to America".

Congress will give me leave to state to them the facts which appears in the Papers accompanying these reports, that they may see whether those conclusions are warranted by them, or whether the direct contrary is not plainly & incontrovertibly the truth.

It is in evidence from the Marquis de la Fayette's Letter, that three millions of livres

were put into D^r Franklin's hands for the purpose of
furnishing ten thousand compleat Uniforms for our
Army, the Marquis having obtained the Arms & Pow-
der, distinct from this sum. It is affirmed in the same
Letter, that tho' on D^r Franklin's application the
Marquis prepared to receive the Clothing & staid
some days for it, & tho' it is said D^r Franklin
sent orders to the agent at Nantes, yet no Clo
thing was sent to the frigate. Here then it is
unquestionable that, that either D^r Franklin
did not really send those orders to the Agent at
Nantes or that they were disobeyed by his nephew
Jonathan Williams the Agent at Nantes; for
M^r Rose declares, in his Letter to the Board,
that the Clothing was forwarded to Nantes & com-
mitted to the care of this M^r Williams.

So far then, Sir, it is clear beyond con
troversy, that this opportunity being lost & the
Clothing not having come in season, was not
owing to Cap^t Landais, but to D^r Franklin or
his Nephew. Yet the business was continued
in the hands of that Nephew; & we shall soon
see the consequences.

The next opportunity was M. de
Sercey's fleet, of the destination of w^ch D^r F. had
three months notice, & the Marquis says he was
promised, that all the Stores for America should
come in that fleet. Yet neither did they come by
this excellent opportunity, nor is there the least
tittle of evidence, that D^r F. or his Agents took
any step whatsoever, much less, as the Board re
port, that they used every effort to accomplish
that purpose.

That fleet sailed in May, so that

Dr. F. had six months & two of the best opportunities for receiving the Clothing & Stores in season, during which time there is not a Letter of Complaint or imputation on Capt. Landais, who did not take the command of the Alliance 'till the latter end of June. Yet Sir the Gentlemen of the Admiralty, after reading, as they say, these Letters with much attention, very gravely report to you, that Capt. Landais taking command of the Alliance was the reason why the Stores did not come out in season.

With regard to the Alliance, these facts are in evidence before the Board, — That Capt Landais left her in Nov. 1779 in obedience to D. F. — That Capt. Jones soon after took possession of her & sailed with her to Spain in Dec. — That he came with her to L'Orient in Feb. 1780. — That Capt. Landais re-possessed himself of the command, about the 26th of June 1780. Here are seven months in which this frigate was entirely at the devotion of Dr. F. & Capt. Jones, in all which time it is proved that she had not a single Bale of Clothing put on board, nor was she supplied with what Stores had long been embarked in her, notwithstanding the Board have found out, with a sagacity infinitely beyond my comprehension, that the Clothing & Stores not coming out in season hath not been owing, in any manner to a want of the closest attention to that business either in the Minister plenipo. or to Capt Jones, who on the contrary have made every application that

every effort to accomplish that purpose.

Then certainly fate had so decreed, that previously on the 25th of June Great before, the whole of these Stores, sufficient at least for ten frigates, should come in the Alliance, when in steps Capt Landais & in one moment overthrows the united efforts of the Minister plenipo. & Capt John Paul Jones, for seven months, & the decrees of fate into the bargain — & so the Board were obliged to report — that Capt Landais taking possession of the Alliance, was the sole reason of the Stores not coming in season.

But this is not all. Mr Ross, in his letter to the Admiralty says, — "finding that the Alliance could only take in 120 Bales with the powder Barrels on board, I took the liberty to write to Paris, pointing out the necessity of a little exertion, to get the whole sent forward"

Here the Reporters might have seen, that even the friend of the M. Plenipo. thought him remiss, & that a little exertion would have sufficed to effect the purpose. Yet in page 21 of Mr J. Ross of every body else the Admiralty will have it that he used his utmost efforts". The same Mr Ross informed them, — that Mr Williams had orders to freight some Ships of Bondfield & Co. but that their terms were too high" — But were high terms in the freight to be set in opposition to dispatching Supplies so essentially necessary to the Publick? Why were not the terms stated for the judgment of Congress? What sort of application, what sort of efforts, did the Gentlemen

of the Admiralty think there were, which could not procure Vessels improvements, or freight, in all the kingdom of France, to bring over two thousand ton of stores?

At last however the Alliance with the Ariel a very small 20 gun Ship, were fixed upon by the joint Council of the Ministers plenipos. Capt. Jones & Mr. John Rop, as fully adequate to bring all the Clothing & all the Stores. Each of them claimed the merit of this plan, & the Admiralty is perfectly charmed with it. Good God, what measure of understanding must these men be supposed of, not to know that frigates are not calculated for carrying Goods — that by putting stores on board of them, you impede their march & their manoeuvering — that no considerable addition can be made to what they necessarily carry for their Crews, without abridging the number of their guns & men — that by these means you spoil them as frigates, & yet have bad merchantmen — that the proper use of frigates is to convoy merchantmen, which are constructed for burthen. But let the facts before the Board speak for themselves. The Ariel did not bring a tenth part of the Stores, nor a single Uniform. And tho' it is alledged that the Alliance might have brought more, yet it is evidence by the unanimous opinion of the Officers, that She was rather over-laden, & neither the Navy-board at Boston where She was unloaded, nor the persons

appointed to examine her have reported that She might with propriety have brought more. Yet after all the fair report promised & the childish expectations raised upon them these Vessels could not bring a twentieth part of all the Stores & Clothing, & the very authors of the imposition themselves were obliged to add a Brig & an old E. Indiaman of immense burthen to bring them all. Can any man be so weak as to believe, that Transports could not have been procured, at the beginning as well as at the end of twelve months, or that the public business was not forever retarded & the Army deprived of their Stores & Clothing for the sole purpose of a beneficial job to the Agents? Let any man read the Evidence, & doubt if he can. Indeed Sir, if the People & governing Powers of this Country are thus deceived by pretences, & if such gross Government misconduct is permitted, without punishment, without probability, it is not even second sense, nor the favor of Heaven we have experienced from the justice of it, that will save us from disgrace & ruin.

Sir, I know that Mr. Williams has excused himself by saying that M. de Terney would not take the Clothing when sent. But I am assured that this was not only contradicted & falsified by that Commander, & in terms which shew, that it was the worst spirited attempt at jobbing of which you have a clear & other evidence that really prevented it. And of this declaration of M. de Terney long & pressing

have evidence whenever they please[a]. It has also been alledg'd that the prize-money not being paid was the reason of their not having dispatched the Alliance: but D.r F. has exculpated himself by saying the money was not in his hands. But, Sir, it was in the hands of his friend & agent M.r de Chaumont, into whose hands he ordered the prizes. This has been denied, & Capt. Jones in his report to the Admiralty expressly charges Capt. Landais with having order'd the prizes into Bergen of his own authority. Now Sir, here is a copy of the order sent by Capt. Jones himself & in his own [redacted] to Capt. Landais.

"Extract from the Orders given by his Excellency D.r Franklin, to the Hon.ble Capt. Jones, dated Passy June 30th, 1779 — Being arrived as Groix you are to make the best of your way with the vessels under your command. The Prizes you make are to be sent to Lorient, Ostend or Bergen in Norway, according to your proximity to either of those ports; & dispose them to the persons M.r de Chaumont shall indicate to you."

Thus one crime is covered by another, & the defrauding the poor American Sailors of their hard earned prize money, (as has been done even to the last sol, in a manner the most gross & shameful that was ever practised) is made an excuse for not sending the public Stores & for keeping a frigate idle at L'Orient & at an immense expence for several months. It is not my purpose to accuse others, but to shew that I myself have been falsely accused. Yet the evidence of the one being necessarily evidence of the other, I could not avoid shewing that the Admiralty report, was calculated as much to cover the crimes of others as to impute blame to me.

To effect the last, their report says, that it appears Capt. Landais regained the command of the Alliance by only advice. Yet Capt. Landais in the trial [redacted] before them says after having received the two letters from

[a] This evidence is, that of the minister of Foreign, who told Col. Bland [redacted] that M. de Sarnay said he refused to take in private Goods, which his Majesty's Ships were not intended for

the Officers which were strong invitations to him to take the command W^th the opinion of the Hon^ble A Lee & that of Com^r Gillon I wrote the following Letter to Lieutenant Degge. June 12. 1780. I order you to keep the said frigate till I have received an answer from his Excellency to whom I wrote on the subject; you may appoint all the Officers & Men you think proper & tell them & all the Crew — that I shall take the command as soon as the answer will be arrived. I expect Dr Drayton can not deny it to me, unless he has an order to the contrary from Congress. — Here it might have appeared to them that my petition, not being a Free, as they are pleased to term it, added to that of Com^r Gillon & the petition of his Officers, which from the nature of the case must have been of much more weight than my single one, did not appear to make him take command of the Alliance but to be [illegible] that Dr D. could not refuse it to him. They have not [illegible] when that I gave any advice or opinion after the above [illegible] command of the Alliance contrary to the express command of Dr F. which is not the case nor is alledged that I was before we sailed. All that appears is, that when Capt Landais was actually in command of the Ship & had sailed out of the port, I was anxious about the consequences of his delaying the supplies unnecessarily & exposing the frigate & her Cargoe so long in a good Road upon the winds & the Enemy. That I foretold these consequences as Capt Landais himself can witness & when afterwards mentioning the dangers that threatened the Ship he says — W^m Lee's letter [illegible] I was sailing the 8^th of July. In doing this it is plain that I consulted the public good & deserved the thanks of the Board instead of their censure. I shall thus, Sir, state to the evidence with a comparison of the report, with as much brevity as I can, that I might trespass as little as possible upon the patience of Congress. It is past all question, the evidence clearly & fully contradicts every word of the report. I [illegible] I believe, that the Spirit of faction has risen to so dangerous & desperate a pitch, that the public Servants in high & confidential trusts, should presume under the very eye of Congress, to step upon the Honorable Bench, to usurp an inquisition & knowingly violate every principle of honor, truth, justice, to screen Offenders, exterminate the guiltless. And I appeal to the sentiments of honor & justice in all that hear me, whether I should not have too much reason to complain of injustice, Sevenfold, were Congress to suffer such a report to pass unnoticed. More especially as I can appeal to Congress, for that from this very source the same calumny has been industriously circulated not only thro this City, but thro the Army & the States of Virginia & N. York. I beseech every Gentleman who hears me to consider how dangerous it is to suffer truth & justice to be thus violated, & that the bitter cup of calumny which they allow to be forced upon one, may some day & by the same arts be brought to their own lips.

Augt 16. 1781

Report on the Motion of the Virginia Delegates

Resolv? That 16 Passports be granted to be employed by the Govr. of Virginia in protecting such number of Vessels as shall be sufficient to export 50,000 Bushells of Salt for the use of Virginia

That 8 Passports be granted to be employed in like manner by the Govr. of Maryland

That the said Passports continue in force for the space of six months from their date & no longer.

Resv? That the President inform [redacted] Govrs. of Virginia & Maryland, that nothing less than the pressing necessities of Virginia & Maryland, could have induced Congress to relax the Resolution made against further intercourse with the Enemy. That an abuse of this indulgence, will highly injure the American cause, & that Congress rely on them to guard the same against misapplication by every possible precaution, & to cause the Passports to be returned to the President, after the accomplishment of the purposes for which they are now granted.

(Circular)

War office August 16. 1781.

(No 375)

Sir,

The Executive being informed that officers of the militia in divers parts of the State have undertaken to grant flags for the purpose of going into the enemy's lines, I am therefore directed by his Excellency in Council to signify to you their express prohibition of such practices, and to desire you to give public notice within your county that no flags will be permitted under any pretence but such as are licensed by the Executive or the commanding officer of the army in this State.

I enclose to you the last militia law, and have the honor to be,

Your most humble servant

William Davie

Col Wm Davies
Aug 16th 1781

(~~No 70~~
(No 375)

No 70

G. Weedon letter
20th Augt 1781

Public Service

No. 449

County Lieutenant or

Commanding Officer

In

Western Bs Westmorland

(Copy Index B
(1936)

(No 377)

Cape Francois Augt 20th 1785.

The Hon^ble

Richard Henry Lee Esq^r

Sir,

[I afforded me real pleasure to be informed a few days ago, by a Gentleman from Virginia, that you were again elected a member of Congress for that State — a post which your worst enimies must acknowledge you most eminently qualified to fill — I rejoice most heartily at this additional proof of the Assurrment & confidence of your Country men — not only as being sensible of your Consequence in the great national Council, but as it serves as a triumph over those who are envious of your abilities & unshaken fidelity —]

It was my intention to communicate to you, when last on the Continent, my wish to obtain an appointment of Consul at Some of the trading ports of Europe; but as your office was nearly expired, I declined troubling you on the Subject — The losses I have Sustained by the failure of Publick Credit (having employed my money in its funds) renders that application Still necessary — To a Gentleman of your extensive knowledge, it would be presumption in me to attempt to point out the utility of Such appointments — but many circumstances that have fallen under my observation, confirm me

Randolph Colston

(No 377)

D Letter

Aug.t 20. 1781

Mr. Ran. Colston

Philadelph.a

The Hon.ble

Richard Henry Lee Esq.

Member of Congress for the State of Virginia

in

Philadelphia.

Randolph Colston

Letter Aug.t 20. 1781

Political

1787-

me in the opinion that it is a necessary one & I believe is of more importance than is generally thought with you — If the expense is an objection that might be done away by laying a small duty on the tunnage of Vessels, by which the expense would fall on those only who were, or might be benefited by it — I know it is in contemplation to fix either at Cadiz, or in Holland, as soon as the trade of Virginia, Maryland & No Carolina — is rendered free, by the expulsion of the enimy, I shall thank you for your influence in my favour if such appointments take place

I have the Hon. to be.

Sir, your mo. obt. Sr.

Rawlins Colston —

Raleigh Colston

(No 377)

D Letter

Aug.t 20. 1781

Mr. Raw. Colston

Recd Sept.

The Hon.ble

Richard Henry Lee Esq.

Member of Congress for the State of Virginia

in

Philadelphia.

Raleigh Colston
Letter Aug.t 20. 1781
Political
1787-

My dear General Epping forest Aug.t 23.d 1781

I was yesterday honored with your letter of the 20.th by express, the day before which my Son brought me a letter from the Marquis informing me that Cornwallis had collected his whole force, a feeble garison in Portsmouth excepted, in Gloucester Town neck, and that it was his opinion we should shortly have some strong work upon hand — probably as soon as our Fodder for forage is ready, our grass Cattle fat, and the weather temperate; all which are now near at hand. I understand Gen.l Washingtons opinion to be, that they will strain every nerve to possess as much of Virginia as possible this Fall & winter. I suppose you have heard that Adm.l Darby with 5 sail of the line, and a reinforcement of Troops, was arrived at N. York. It is not easy to guess where the enemies operations will be, but I conjecture in all the lower country between the sea and the Falls of the rivers, and that the neck between York & Rappahanock & between this last river & Potomac will be their first aim. I am told that there are a good many fine horses in Northumberland & Lancaster — Ought they not

to be prevented from falling into the enemies hands?
Unless militia be actually drawn out, I think that no
method can be fallen upon to have them in readiness more
effectual than what has been adopted here from the
moment that the enemy entered Yorkshire. Collected
companies are ordered weekly to muster under the
discipline of an Adjutant, and the Officers are charged
to make the strictest inspection into their arms &c and
to have the ~~men~~ arms made with the delay - I
have found with concern that these meetings are but
thinly attended; and that both officers & men propose to
return to their old places & methods of mustering - I have
refused to indulge them ill timed hopions for ease, &
have exhorted patients, industry, & discipline, as
indispensable to our political salvation. But I am
certain that nothing will do but being actually in
the field under the law martial. My son ~~Cornwallis~~
that me that the Marquis is of opinion that a Camp
should be formed hereabouts, & the men in that way
kept in readiness - I am of his opinion I own, and I
think that the plan we formed here, with the single

alteration of forming a Camp with the 1100 instead of
their remaining at home, altho it will be more expensive,
would certainly best answer the purpose of defence - I was
in hopes that you would quickly push that plan of ours
into execution - I had mentioned to Col. Davies your
forming a plan here for our defence and I have prepared
him to aid in procuring the adoption of it, and in
carrying it into execution - I am satisfied that little
opposition will be found hereabouts if some such method
be not adopted - And for this reason I cannot but wish
that you would set yourself earnestly about it, and
as quickly as the mischief to be prevented seems to
demand. The Marquis says that he will thro you
inform me of any interesting event as he understands
that is a good way of my getting it. I shall thank
you for any such - I am dear General yours
sincerely Richard Henry Lee

Thomas Lee R. Pt. Co.
Rec'd Sept. 1861

Dear Sir. Chantilly August 26 1781

I have just been favored with your polite and friendly Letter of July the 15th last, for which I beg leave to return you my thanks - You may be assured Sir, that as I do not take up friendships upon trivial grounds, so I never lay them down for slight causes. I have been happy to find that the principles which attached me to you have increased, not diminished. If I have been silent some time, your goodness will impute it to the right causes; want of matter, at times much business, and that unpleasant state of mind which must be produced by the incessant tho causeless persecution of a wicked faction. I assure you Sir that I have not been permitted in peace to discharge my public

duties,

dulcio, for I'so to enjoy that state of mind which disposes one for the entertainment of a friend. However, I am at present much withdrawn from public business, which hath in some degree abated the virulence of my factious enemies. Removed from the storm, I can with more tranquility see, and think.

When I had the honor of writing to you on the 12 of June, the affairs of this country were very unpromi=sing indeed - we had then no intelligence of the strong causes for relief that you designed to place about New York. No doubt Cornwallis might be called from Virginia by similar means to those which carried Hannibal from Italy to Carthage. I truly believe that your plan would soon have succeeded if New York had not been reinforced by other means than the forces from hence, and I am satisfied that your designs produced the retrograde movements of Lord Cornwallis. A marine aid is indispensable for this water pierced country that it is impossible to

consider

the subject without being convinced that an enemy commanding the water may ruin the state with one fourth of the land force that the country may furnish.

I hope therefore that your wise efforts for procuring this aid will at length be crowned with success - and being successful here, I think that the war must end, for which ever way we turn our eyes, Great Britain is rapidly and justly going down hill. She is properly suffering for enormous transgressions against human nature. In all probability this campaign will so reduce the power and the pride of that haughty nation as to give, and secure peace to the world.

When your leisure permits I shall be extremely happy to hear from you being with great sincerity and affectionate attachment dear Sir your most obedient and very humble servant

Richard Henry Lee

5. Letter to General Washington.

Sir

In Council 30th Augt 1781.

We are honored by your Excellency's letter of the 27th and we receive with the greatest satisfaction the Intelligence of the Approach of the Fleet of our generous Ally. You may rely, Sir, on every exertion that is possible for us to make, to accelerate the Movements of the Army on an Expedition, the success of which, must hasten the establishment of the Independence of America, and relieve us from many of the Calamities of War.

Orders have issued to impress every Vessel belonging to the State and forwarding them without delay to the Head of Elk. But we are sorry to inform your Excellency that since the Enemy has had possession of the Bay, our Number of sea Vessels and Craft has been reduced by Captures, that we are apprehensive what remains will not transport so considerable a detachment. We have directed the State Officers to procure immediately by purchase or seizure five thousand head of Cattle and

(a)

a large quantity of Flour, there is very little salt provision in the State, but can be obtained, we trust will be collected. Part of the provision will be deposited at the Head of Elk, Baltimore Town, and George Town, most of the Cattle will be kept in good pastures, not far distant from the Bay and Rivers, so that they may with ease be forwarded to any point where they may be required, we have directed sufficient quantities of Forage to be laid in, at the Head of Elk, Baltimore Town, and George Town, for the use of the Army. The third regiment consisting of about six hundred Men under the Command of Colo Adams march=ed from this City last Tuesday, and about seven hun=dred of the new levies, now here will move in a few days.

Every Aid that can be given Mr Morris will be afford=ed with the utmost Chearfulness and alacrity.

His Excellency
Genl Washington

1781 August 31

William Davies to R. H. Lee

MSS: LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Sir, (Orig Sutton) (No 378) War office Aug.t 31. 1781.

From the very critical and important situation of affairs government have directed me to signify to you, that you immediately send to the camp at Glocester one fourth of your militia as well as such other proportion as can be equiped either as foot or horsemen. Government are fully sensible of the exposed situation of your county, and nothing but the certainty of the security, you may expect shortly to be in, and the great advantage your militia will afford by instantly joining the camp at Glocester could induce them to issue this order the moment your men can be spared you may be assured they shall be dismissed to their county.

I am Sir,

your most Obed.t Hum.le

William Davies

(№ 378) Col. Wm Davies
(Hamilton) 2 Letters

(This bundle Contains Letters from
Military Men

1781

1804

Sept. 4 1781

1224

Sir,

I had the pleasure of receiving your favor of the 26th of last month yesterday, and am very sorry for the distresses of Virginia, tho' the ardour and unanimity of the people promise that they will not long continue.

Long ere this I flattered myself that I should have heard of the Count de Grasse and Count de Barras having entered the Chesapeake with thirty four ships of the line, and several frigates, bomb ketches & other armed vessels. They sailed for that Bay long ago, with a considerable body of land forces, and a company of sappers and miners, having every apparatus on board for attacking fortifications. This you may depend upon. — General Washington, with the whole French Army, and a large detachment of Americans are in full march for your relief; the last division passes thro' this city to day.

Colo: Laurens came to Town yesterday from Boston, where he arrived in the French frigate Resolution, accompanied with two others loaded with arms, ammunition & cloathing, on the 25th of August. Besides these important supplies, all for the United States, he has brought with him a large sum in specie, almost equal to our wishes. The Court of France have really exerted themselves

themselves far beyond any thing done heretofore, and have given us full proof how much they have our Independence at heart. In a few weeks more, I trust, I shall have it in my power to mention additional evidences of their most faithful attachment. The King has written a very friendly letter to Congress, and presented their special Minister Colo: Laurens with an elegant gold box, having his picture in the lid, ornamented with diamonds &c., nearly resembling the one you had the honor of receiving.

On Saturday last, about one o'clock P. M., Sir Samuel Hood, with 24 sail of the line, was seen, about 25 miles Southward of Shoarsbury, steering to the Southward. I suppose for Chesepeake. In all probability we shall soon hear of a sea Engagement. We are at the eve of great events; may God grant them to be prosperous to us, and that they may terminate in securing to us, peace, liberty and safety.

Philadelphia.
September 4th 1781.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with the most respectful personal attachment,

Your most obedient

humble servant

Tho M:Kean

The Hon.ble Arthur Lee Esq.

Thos. McKean

Lo. F. R. Lee

Dear Sir, Essex Lonsh 17th Sept. 1781

I had the honor of reciving by your polite and agreeable letter of July the 15th by my son [illegible] who expected either to wait on you with it in Virginia or to get the letter forwarded by the Marquis de la Fayette. Altho I am at this time laboring under a severe fit of the gout, it is impossible to refrain from congratulating you, and rejoicing with this country, on the present happy and glorious prospect before us. The very judicious and decisive step that you have taken in coming here, seems to put it out of the power of fortune to prevent the enemy in this state from falling into your hands. At least my mind can reach but to two preventatives, the coming of naval aid from France which is hardly possible and the want of provisions for men and horses which cannot be prevented. Upon which both must surely be kept upon [illegible] in Europe. Therefore the

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the repetition of such scenes as the relieving of Gibraltar; and it is inadmissible that in this land of abundance so disgraceful a thing should happen as the dispersion of a force collected for our salvation for want of provisions which now the country abounds with! I assure you Sir, the Commissaries and Quartermasters departments in this state, ~~state~~ so far as I have observed them, have in every thing been the reverse of right, insomuch that I have been well informed the few troops with the Marquis have frequently felt distress for want of provisions! At present, the land and sea force that may come to clean out these brothers dastards will probably reach to 45 or 50,000 men. We have now a good character at the head of our State War Office, and I make no doubt but that he will exert all his powers with diligence. To prevent however the greatest of misfortunes, want of success from want of provisions, cant we add some methods not destructive of the present plans, and which may aid their deficiency? I suppose immediate notice were given to the professors of good merchant oville, that they should be paid with specie for the flour they brought to

to your army and the navy, and a better price for the woods
if practicable; and wherever a competent person would
undertake on a reasonable terms to deliver a proper quan-
tity, let his mill and waggon and protection from
the destructive talons of Independence - Upon these last
let me here make one observation for all - Their gripe
generally squeezes the best citizens and leaves the rest
and so always executes for the greater vice and profit
of the Independence: so that now the people in general are
exerting those vices to elude and hide their property -
from these characters. To prevent this let them become
excited with patriotism, and upon demand of probity,
knowledge of the country, of honor, integrity,
and disinterestedness should be employed to decide on the
upper and as much flour dispatched as
possible. With regard to the hard money, I suppose that our
allies will furnish a sufficiency for their own supply,
which will leave us a good matter for us, and this if we
are rightly informed here, our Congress Financiers might
furnish upon the return of Col. Laurens from France.
The present modes of getting clear of the

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the several circles would answer if diligently executed but to aid this, for health as well as plenty, suppose that an active Justice of the peace, said Militia Officer, and one of the delegates, in each county, or any two of the three, were by government immediately impowered and authorized to proceed with diligence and take one half of the bacon and salt beef in possession of every family, and dispatch it in proper Carts, or Boats immediately to the army. The reason why, when persons in the country may find as many reasons besides as there are to subsist upon for short victory must not be procured by want of victuals, and there must be abundance of the same. Altho I have seen the beneficial influence of these impressments, yet upon the great and apparently final occasions it seems advisable to extend a little further proper direction, not to destroy the present equation, I mean in this exigence to aid not to annihilate now the old imperfect plan. I should suppose that if these hogs were promised that the fleet might be well supplied with vegetables from the water bound countries, I believe you [illegible] that I should not have troubled you on

or resided from my present state to make those observations
if it were not because of my great anxiety least we should
fail of the happy end before us for want of provisions. And
upon this principle I am sure of your pardon. But now
that I am thus engaged, permit me to make a few observ-
=vations upon the negroes now with the enemy in case of
the surrender of the latter — I am told that it is
fixed, but whether by civil or military power I know not
not — that the owners, or any other person may have the
Slaves, on paying £5 a piece into the public treasury for
each. It would seem that the unfortunate owners
should be relieved upon terms as easy as possible — The
Admiralty have some regulations upon subjects like this
within their province but how they apply to this case I
see not. And I believe that the singular manner in
which Great Britain has conducted this war against
America, leaves no clue to direct us in former practice.
Force, fraud, intrigue, theft, have all in turn been
employed to delude these unhappy people, and to
disgrace their master. My brother William has
lost twenty five negroes, whom are about 15 valuable
grown

gr own slaves and useful Artizans. I would say nothing
in his favor from his many other losses or the personal
injuries that have befallen him from his late shameful
to his native country - General systems will be applied
to general subjects, and I shall be content with
those that you establish - I would only observe that
he is now upon the Continent of Europe, where he has
been detained by the disagreeable consequences that
might follow the committing his wife and children
to the sea in these precarious times, and the necessity
of his presence with them in a foreign land where he
is sufficiently distressed for them exclusive of the
profits of his estate here having been all lost into the
Loan Offices and his numerous debts in England are
recoverable at present - He has now no Money in this Land
and no Lawyer has been found that would bring suits
for him. Perhaps it will be thought expectation of any
salary is demanded, to allow Absentees a reasonable
indulgence for payment. I have the honor to be with
the most perfect esteem Sir your Excellencies

Most affectionate and obedient servant,

Richard Henry Lee.

Sept 1781

Camp Greenstead House
21 Sept 1781

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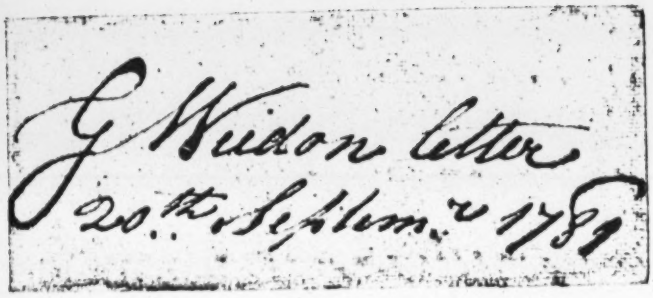
I am to acquaint that the Situation of our Army & that of our Allies requires the Execution of that Enterprize that I mentioned to you in my last Letter & that I must desire you to give every assistance in your power, and call forth all the Commissioners in the Collection but in immediate Service to the Vessels collected & Vessels destined to Virginia. Every Boat & Vessel must be secured & Guarded by Militia, & Sailors, & Negroes, & Negroes Boats

Gen. Weedon
20th Sept 1781


J. Weidon letter
20th Septem.r 1789

Paris le. 2. octobre. 1781.

Monsieur

J'ai reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 19. juin dernier à laquelle etoit joint un exemplaire des constitutions generales et particulieres des Etats unis de l'amerique. Je vous prie de recevoir mes plus sinceres remercimens de cette marque de votre attention. une legislation aussi sage et bien faite pour assurer le bonheur de votre patrie. l'arpaix y mettera le comble. en mon particulier j'y prens interêt le plus vrai de admiration et de la conviction. cet sentiment s'etend aussi à tout ce qui peut contribuer le plus à votre gloire et à vos avantages personnels. Je vous prie d'en etre bien convaincu ainsi que de la haute consideration avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'etre

Monsieur

Votre très humble et très obeissant serviteur

Le Cte de Vergennes

M. Arthur Lée. à Philadelphie

My dr Sir (No 379) Philad. Oct. 4. 1781.

I must write by Mr Lyard
wat only to assure you how
you all do & congratulate you
on the liberation of Virginia
from Geoges plundering crew.
when must Cornwallis fall?

Rivington of 26 Sept has a
Letter from a Mr Power in En-
gland to C. Braxton discovering
a correspondence about land
& money matters the particulars
I dont know, but E. Randolph Esq
told me just now it was one
of Braxtons unfortunate strokes
you will hear more of it.

& Ward

Our Bro[r] Arthur will give you y[r]
news — The Lottery is not yet
finished. nor have the Managers
determined how they will pay
the Prizes. — how shamefully ill
-fish & wicked Mankind are & how
little disinterested virtue! —
Love to all our friends from
us all — Your very affect[e]
Aunt Susanna

Our Cousin Tom
behaves very agreeably
& is improving himself
much, tell his Mamma.
My Tom desires to be more particular
that in his expressions of love and
esteem for his Uncle B. H. & Cousin Ludwell &

W Whipple's letter
Oct. 24. 1781

Mr Justice of
Peace 1780 — 9

Letters & Collections
Copy Minutes &c
Peace Proceedings
of Cases
Affidavits

The Honble Richard Henry Lee Esqr
Chantilly
Virginia

Mr Wythe's Letter

C +

Dear Sir.

Charlotte October the 3d 1780

I had the honor of addreſsing you last by my eldest son who went to camp about four weeks ago. since that we have had the pleasure of hearing that your advances against York go succeſsfully on. by this time I hope his Lordship begins seriously to repent the Quixote part that he has been acting in America. Surely the rage of despotism must be cooled by the total defeat of those great hopes which has been entertained of southern conquest. tho realy, in all the outrage of paſsion that history presents, we see nothing equal to the tyrannous and senseless rancour of the british king and counsels against America. this disposition may continue a hopeleſs ruinous war. I see that Arnold, in the true spirit of apostacy, is burning and wasting his native country. the malice of that man, his wickedneſs, and his avarice render him a fit instrument for such employers. his former succeſs in this state, his restleſs search after gain however obtained, and the general languor that will be found hereafter the present exertions are over, will most likely be [illegible] with gen. Clinton and himself to cause the coming of this unprincipled person with his 1500 or 2 000 plunderers to Virginia, when the fleet and army shall be gone. The learned and judicious Polybius was of opinion that the principal inducing motive with Alexander the great for invading Persia, was the little resistance that the 10,000 grecians met with in haſsing thro that great empire. weakneſs joined with the poſsession of property are certainly strong temptations to ambitious avaricious men. how best to prevent Richmond from experiencing in November the same disgraceful evil that it did in january, your wisdom can best determine. Perhaps two strong frigates under proper

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of a small and well fortified garison at the Town of York. with Gen. Spotswoods & Col. Meads Legions made complete by the addition of some regular soldiers, might operate to discourage such attempts with the force that can be prudently spared from the garisons of N. York & Charles Town. Or if attempted, might be sufficient with militia aid to repel the invaders. It is not easy to conceive the dis= and injury that have been devised to this state from the number of piratical plunderers that have infested the shores of this country since our gallies were laid down: and such has been the success and benefit attending this wicked practise, that we hear of small ones forming in various parts to go plundering along the shores. in the actual state of our affairs it will be long before we can build and fit vessels to stop these pernicious and disgraceful practises; but I should suppose that our government might have credit enough to purchase from among the captured armed vessels at York some ready fitted swift sailing Cruisers, for the purpose of securing our bay and rivers and suppressing these piratical proceedings. if our plan should meet your Excellencies approbation, your recommen= dation of it will secure its adoption. I know there will be difficul= ty in getting seamen - but since the necessity of our country renders marine defence indispensable, and since the single difficulty of getting seamen is far less than getting them and building and fitting the vessels besides; it would seem prudent to get the Vessels and diligently apply at the ports of neighbouring states for a few good sea= men, less than a third of which description with the real landsmen, would will answer our purpose. I cannot help thinking that this method, aided by a well conceived Law for the speedy and capital punishment of such offenders, would contribute to lessen greatly, if not to suppress a practise extremely injurious to those who live near the water and destructive to the commerce of the State. We are anxiously waiting for the rejoicing time to come when L. Cornwallis & his people will be your prisoners. I am dear Sir with particular esteem and regard your affectionate and obedient Servant.

Richard Henry Lee

Camp before Yorktown October 22d
(No 358) 1781.

My dear Col.

I have had the honor of your two last respecting Price and Monroe, the former recommended to his Excy for a furlough the Day I rec'd your Letter, shall also refer Monroe to his Field Officer for a similar indulgence. The numerous applications daily made to me for Exemptions obliged me to direct in my Gen'l Orders that the Officers commanding Regiments Battalions or Corps should settle the points of their own Command, and be the only judges of Inability, and Furlough or Discharge on they might see fit, this being once ordered, all matters of this nature must pass thro the Channel as directed, and all Gen'l Officers to refer them to the Officer under whose immediate Inspection they fall. ——— I should have done myself the pleasure of acknowledging your previous two last Letters & Military movements but for want of my Power which I hope will sufficiently apologize. Our Batteries on the first Parallel opened the 9th Inst. and considerable advancements are made towards the second, under a tremendous Cannonade and Bombardment

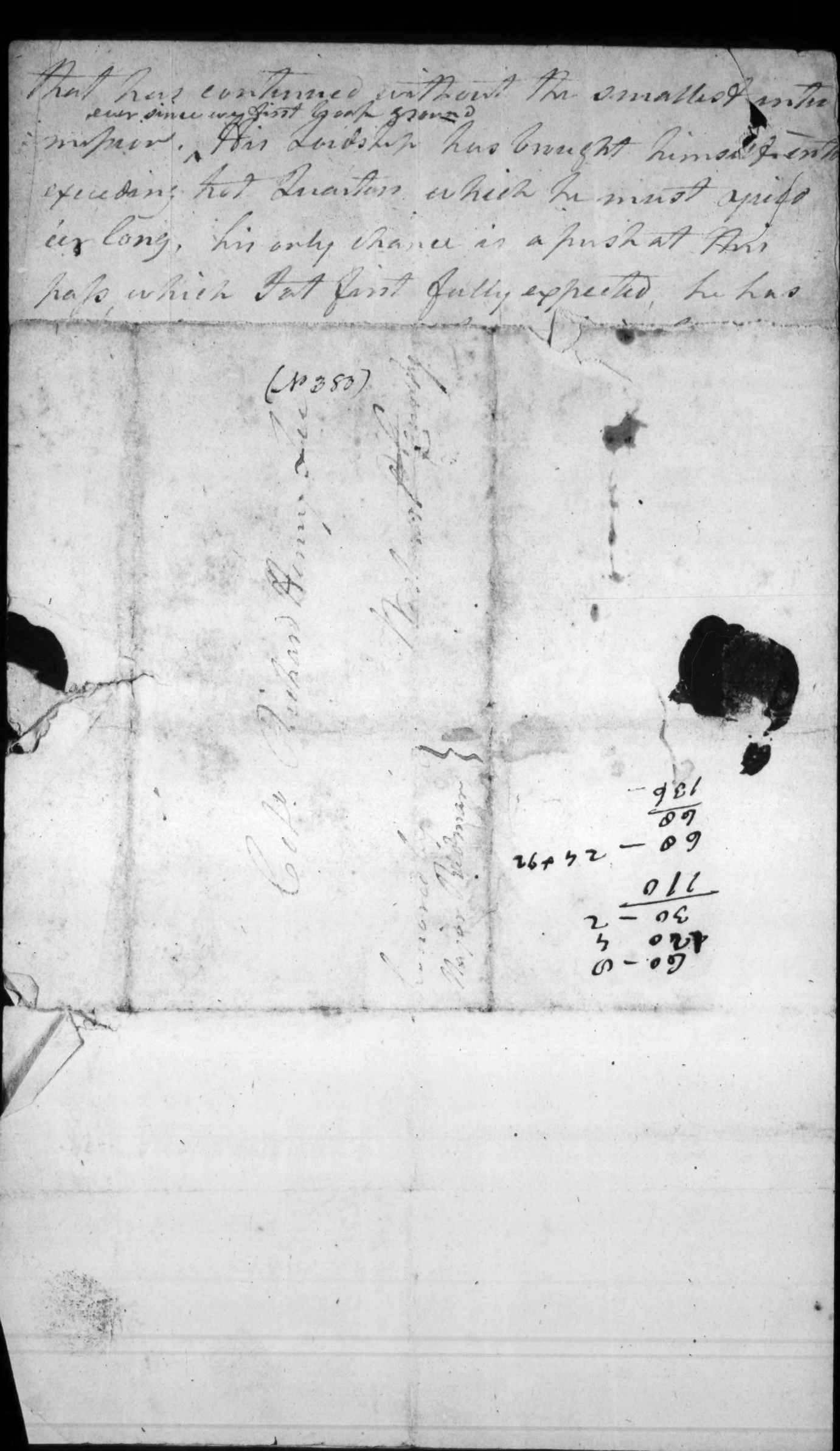
that has continued without the smallest intermission ever since my first Coup d'oeil. His Lordship has brought himself into exceeding hot Quarters which he must quit ere long, his only chance is a push at this post, which Sir Guy Carleton fully expected, he has delayed it so long that I now begin to think it will not be his Policy. They keep a pretty strong Garrison at Gloster Town, we have not the means in our hands to make regular Approaches against them, we however answer every purpose by keeping them completely circumscribed, as they must hear the Yoke of their Master. [illegible] I rejoice exceedingly at having it in my power to send to you officially the Success of my friend Green in the South, His Excellencies Secretary tells me by the Gen. Order, "That after a very obstinate Battle fought on the 8th Inst. & which was very bloody on both sides, he obtained a very compleat Victory. The loss of the Enemy in killed Wounded & Prisoners Infantry were 1000 — an Accident prevented a total Destruction of their whole Army consisting of 2000 — our loss about 500." — I am My Dear Sir with Compliments to Mrs. Lady and Your Gentlemen Mrs. Elliot Mrs. Gadsden &c. &c. &c.

Sir &c. —

Macdonald

that has continued without the smallest intermission ever since my first Coup ground
, His Lordship has brought himself into
expending that Quantum which he must spend
ere long, his only chance is a push at Bar
pass which Sat first fully expected, he has

(N 350)



Charles Earl Cornwallis Lieutenant General
& Commander in Chief of his Britannick Majesty's Forces. ———

Do acknowledge myself a Prisoner of War to the United States of America, & having permission from His Excellency General Washington, agreeable to Capitulation to proceed to New York & Charlestown, or either, & to Europe,

Do pledge my Faith & Word of Honor, that I will not do or say any thing injurious to the said United States or Armies, thereof, or their Allies, untill duly exchanged; I do further promise that Whenever required, by the Commander in Chief of the American Army, or the Commissary of Prisoners for the same, I will repair to such place or places as they or either of them may require. ———

Given under my Hand at York Town 28th day of October 1781 —

Cornwallis

Ex'd a Duplicate

Scrittoriali - Carte

No 82 - 1

(No 381)

King George Nov.r 4. 1781.

Dear Sir

I send you a letter from Lo.l Porter he is committed to my care at Richmond. The interruption to every civil pursuit in y.e State has determin'd me to have it with a view of pursuing some studies on perhaps as good terms & I flatter myself with a prospect of equal or greater improvement. I wod. not wish to retreat from y.e warfare nor evade any of y.e duties of a citizen but as I have no kind of publick imployment nor y.e prospect of any, I think myself at liberty to pursue my own views in a manner y.e most convenient & expedient to my circumstances. I sail with Lo.l Porter & shall be happy to bear your commands. I wish much to go to England & provided I have y.e approbation of Council perhaps shall. any commands either y.r self or Mr. Arthur Lee will honor me with I shall punctually attend to & what I may not have it in my power personally to execute will endeavor to put in y.e readiest way for performance. I am with great respect & esteem y.r very humble servant

Jo.s Monroe

Nov? 4. 1701
Colo Jam? Moore

To
Richard Hampton Esquire
Baltimore Island

Jas Monroe
Letter 4th No 178[illegible] (No 281)

Jas Monroe
Nov 4th 81

~~No 277~~

1781

No 279.

(55)

Dr Franklin to Robert Morris Nov: 6. 1781

There is a little mistake in one of your letters, which I ought to set right. You mention Vrasne as having guaranteed the payment of the interest bills. There has been no such guarantee. She has hitherto furnish'd the money for that purpose, and will I hope continue to do so. I indeed think it probable but I should be sorry to see it mentioned in any public Paper as an engagement of hers, and this hint may prevent it. Perhaps some of the Commissioners may have understood that there was such promise & may have said it in their letters; but as there is no such thing existing in any writing between us and the Ministers, we cannot openly insist on it: for when we first arrived & did not well understand one another's language, it was easy to misapprehend & suppose things said that

that were not, I wished after such a length of time to forget some that were. And till after the treaty was ~~signed~~ agreed on, I think we had nothing from the Ministers in writing - it seemd a point to avoid it.

Dr Franklin to Robert Morris Aug. 28. 1782

I have time to acquaint you that our good friend the Marquis, whom I have just now seen, has been at my request with all the Ministers, spent an hour with each of them, purposely with all the arguments possible a further supply of money for the ensuing campaign, & having better acquainted with the facts, he was able to speak with greater weight, than I could possibly do. He found that the general determination had been not to furnish any more money, & he thinks that he has so far prevailed as that the matter may be re-considered

Extract R. Morris to B. Franklin Nov: 27 1781.

The Chevalier (de la Luzerne) observes that the King's obligations to us have been extended. This is but a narrow idea. If the King is engaged to support the war until our Independance is established, his simple object of enquiry will be, how that can be most speedily & cheaply accomplished. It is certain that America ought to do every thing in her power & you may assure the Court that Congress and the Servants of Congress are sensible of this duty & determined to comply with it. But it is in vain to think of breaking the bounds of possibility & equally vain to think of changing the nature of man. Let me add that there is little propriety in reproaching Americans with faults inseperable from humanity. Besides this the exertions of our country have really been very great & as soon as more consistency shall have been past in the Administrations, they will again be great, but this is a period of weakness between the convulsive labors of enthusiasm & the sound & regular operations of order & government. There is in

in the end of the Chevaliers letter a hint with re-
lation to our Commerce, which altho it does not
immediately to the present purpose, must not go
be unnoticed. That an indirect commerce has
taken place with England is true, & that France
has in a great measure been the cause of
it, is equally true. Men will naturally buy
where they can obtain things most cheaply.
The prime cost of goods tho a great object in time
of peace, is not equally so in time of war. The freight
the insurance, are then so high that a small
difference of danger or convenience will coun-
terbalance a great difference in price. When France
by subscribing to the principles of the armed Neu-
trality, gave her Enemy the means of bringing
her manufactures in safety to our neighbour-
hood, she tempted our Merchants to buy those
manufactures. She added the motives of in-
terest to the force of what it ought not therefore
to be surprised that such cogent principles
have had their effect. One more remained
that of conveying the trade between France
& America; & that has been neglected. I am hap-
-py however to observe that this British Commerce
is dwindling very fast. The war with Holland has
given it one deadly blow & if our privateers are once
more freed from the shackles too hastily imposed upon
them, I cannot doubt but that the trade of this
country will flow directly to France as
indeed it ought to do.

Robt. Morris to Dr Franklin — R. Morris entered on his Office in July. 1781.

If any thing will totally ruin the Commerce of Engd. with this Country it is her blind attachment to her Navigation Act. This act which never was the real foundation of her naval superiority may perhaps with be the cause of its destruction. If France possesses commercial wisdom, She will take care not to imitate the conduct of her rival. The west India island can be supplied twenty p.Ct. cheaper in american than in french or british bottoms. I will not trouble you with the reasons, but you may rely on the fact. 30 Sept. 1783

Do Do

Altho the very moderate sum of 4,000,000 dlls is proposed as the first capital, I intend to increase it gradually to ten times that sum. July 14. 1781

Do Do With these views I have directed Mr Jay to ask a considerable sum from the Court of Madrid to be advanced us at the Havannah & brought thence by us. July 13. 1781

N.B. to Mr Jay

The Head of this office must be formed in a progress towards the accomplishment of these two capital objects — The raising a revenue with the greatest convenience to the people — & the expenditure of it with the greatest economy to the public. July 8. 1781

It is necessary to observe that the sum of five millions of dollars may perhaps be sufficient for our present emergencies ——

R. Morris to J. Jay — I mean that the Stock instead of 400,000 dlls shall be 4,000,000 & perhaps more —— an additional reason for the institution of the Bank is to supply the place of all other paper, which it is my wish to absorb as soon as possible

To obtain for you still further assistance I have applied in the absence of Mr. de la Luzerne (who is gone to Camp) to M. de Marbois for letters to their Ambassador at the Court of Madrid. I have stated my views & my hopes & wishes with that candour which is proper on such occasions. M. de Marbois has in consequence written a letter on the subject, in which he informs the Ambassador of our conversation, states the disorder of our finances & makes polite mention of my operations, my designs & my abilities as well as of the confidence reposed in me by Congress & by the people at large. He details the proposed plans, particularly that of the Bank, & shews forcibly the advantages that would result from a considerable advance of money by Spain. He assigns also very proper reasons, why it ought to be considerable, if it be made at all. The great interest of France in this business as well as the open & candid manner in which has marked all the transactions I have hitherto had with the Minister of that Nation induce me to believe that this letter is something more than compliment, & that as it is intended, so it will operate to produce the desired effect.

N. B. The desired effect was not produced — the utmost Mr. Jay could obtain from the Court was 174,017,12.12. dlls — it was the constant policy to keep the U. S. dependent on them, therefore communicating the scheme to them was sure to meet it. Mr. Adams soon discovered this, & acting accordingly obtained a very large loan —

R. M. to Robt. Smith Rs. C. A. at Havannah. July 17. 1781. — I am to observe that when once, by punctual payments, the Notes of the Bank have obtained full credit, the sum of them may be increased to two or three times the sum in specie which is deposited. By this means the Bank will have the interest of a Stock two or three times larger than that it actually possesses.

R. M. to B. Franklin Nov: 27. 1781 — Very little hard money has been obtained from the States — not more than 100,000 dlls during the whole of my administration. There have been indeed drawn forth some considerable supplies of provisions & there is on hand a great deal of paper-money. From the former our army has been principally maintained. Indeed there is a small advance made to the Count de Rochambeau, which I mean to be in part of the promise mentioned in a former letter —

1781

By a Note from C. Vergennes I perceive that the Court grant the U. S. as a gift 6,000,000 advanced you 4,000,000 to pay the bills which might be drawn on you, & become security for a loan of 10,000,000 the amount of wch was to be advanced from the royal treasury, in case the loan should fail of success. — another observation to be made on the account is that no mention is made of the 4,000,000 expressly mentioned in C. Vergennes Note as granted to you for payment of Bills drawn by Congress. A third is, that the articles marked B & that N.° 2. C. wch together amount to the sum of 6,686,109. are all charged as being expended to the order of Col. Laurens; but by the C. de Vergennes letter to you of the 8th June last it appears that Col. Laurens was to have had the command of no other than the 6,000,000 given by the King. Indeed the Count's Note of 16. may also the same thing. The letter of the 8th June just mentioned shews clearly the opinion of the Court on another point of very great importance, that the whole 10,000,000 to be advanced on the loan, are, as in effect they ought to be, subject to the disposition of the U. S. — The whole amount of Bills wch by any means whatever could have come upon you for payment will be 12,843,408 ℔ 13,4. From this Sum very considerable deductions are to be made — I conceive myself well founded in making the amount of the deductions in this Estimate 9,163,265. So that after including one years interest the total is 5,873,128. From this there must be some deductions because undoubtedly you have paid some of the Bills drawn on you in Holland before the 1st Jan.y last. In order to be on this ground I will suppose it to be only 373,128. Then the extent of the Bills payable by you in 1781, will be 5,500,000 ℔ Therefore the 4,000,000, granted by the Court & 1,500,000 said to have been stopped by you in Holland will apply to this demand — It appears at least that 3,000,000 ℔ were advanced for the payment of bills last year. The amount of the interest bills in the extent 2,193,990 ℔ to wch add for contingences 137,010 ℔ Beaumar

144,000, for the draft by resolve 19th May 1780. 125,000ll — whereon suppose the grant of monies to pay bills for the year 1780 to have been 3,000,000. It appears evidently to have been at least that, there would have remained in your hands a balance of 500,000.

Before my acceptance of the office I now hold, the Chevalier de la Luzerne informed me that the Court had given money to the United States with a determination that it should be at the disposal of General Washington, but that upon my acceptance of the office he would authorize me to draw for it. It was agreed between us, that I should draw for 500,000ll & so much be deposited to answer the drafts, & by giving him notice in season a new deposit of 500,000ll should be made & so on from time to time. Shortly after I formed a plan of getting money from the Havannah & on explaining it to the Chevalier he approved of it & in consequence I drew a Bill on Mess.rs le Coulteux & Co. the 4.th of July for 500,000ll. The capture of the Trumbull prevented the negociation. It was previous to the 2.d July 1781, that the Chevalier agreed I should negociate bills for 1,500,000ll of which the 500,000, to have been negociated at the Havannah was a part.

Yr Excellency will perceive that the pointed declaration by the Minister — that the letter of the 20.th Sept.r could not leave me the shadow of hope &c, with what follows it, stands in such direct opposition to the whole tenor of my letters to the real state of my expectations, that to have submitted in silence would have been tantamount to the acknowlegment of its being true. It is indeed easy to perceive that the Chevalier wrote this letter to his Court, at who he directed it as the first intimation to me, & concluded it to have been in consequence of his last dispatches which had not been received long before his letter was written. The equivocal use of the ~~word~~ expression as soon as possible, will not escape you, for it

it shall meet with no other remark from me than this, that I am convinced the Court will not apply it in the same sense with the Chevalier. Neither the dignity of the Prince, nor the magnitude of the occasion will permit a reliance on such distinctions. — So rigid an adherence to words would be an error leading me to fear a design which the generous conduct of the King will not permit me to suspect. — As to the replacing the Marquis de Lafayette's cargoe, it is a matter which I will not seriously contend about because although there will not be war for all the Articles, there certainly will for many of them, & therefore I hardly think a representation on that score necessary because there is no use of multiplying disagreeable considerations, but by the way I must observe that it is a little extraordinary this cargoe should have been unladed out of the Ship to have been opened at your request while at the same request money could not be obtained to pay the bills drawn by Congress, as appears from your letter and that from the Count de Vergennes which

is enclosed in it.

The declarations, that not more pecuniary Aid will be afforded us, are I know very clear & explicit, but I trust that these Declarations will not be adhered to. The interest bills, as I have just now observed will amount to about 2,200,000$ you have to pay Mr. Beaumarchais 2,500,000$ & the cloathing & Stores necessary will amount to 4,000,000. besides all this we must have money, so that it will become necessary to obtain at least 12,000,000 When I mention this sum I take the Lowest Ido it from my sincere desire not to burthen the Finances of France with american demands, but I think such clear reasons can be assigned for it, as must produce conviction.

The date of this Letter from Mr. R. M. to Dr. Franklin is 27th Nov: 1781. The Accts of the Monies obtain'd in France are

		Dollars
1778 Feb. 16th	from Farmers gen'l Livres	3,000,000=555,555.
.....	The Court of France	3,000,000=555,555
1779	from the Court of France	1,000,000=185,185
1780		4,000,000=740,740
1781	Do Do including the 10 M. from Holland	20,000,000=3,703,704
1782	Do Do	6,000,000=111,111
1783.	Do Do	6,000,000=111,111

Robt Morris to [illegible] Grand banker in Paris
Ser 1781 Office of finance 3d Decr 1781

When I was called to the superintendance of the american finances, it became necessary to appoint a banker, with whom to deposit the monies which were to be granted by the Court, for payment of my bills. Your house naturally presented itself to my consideration; but as I knew you to have large accounts open, & as I wished that my transactions should be kept in a seperate, clear & distinct manner, I named for this purpose the house of Messrs Le Couteulx & Co. At the same time I wrote to his Excellency Benjamen Franklin Esqr the Minister plenipotentiary of the U. S. upon that subject & am honored with his answer two days ago. He has mentiond your services to my Country in those warm terms of gratitude which are due to early, vigorous & disinterested exertions. My deep respect for the opinions of that worthy Minister, my desire, on all occasions, to evince the gratitude of my country, added to those

favorable impressions which your conduct has made on my mind, have induced me to employ you as a banker in the Affairs of the U. S. You will be pleased, Sir, to close your former accounts, & in due season to transmit them. For subsequent transactions you will open new Accounts, & from time to time keep me informed of the State of your affairs. The allowance formerly made, of 1/2 pr Ct on the monies which pass thro' your hands, will be continued.

N. B. Mr Grand was perfectly disinterested, when he had half pr Ct on all public monies that came into his hands, with the use of them for a considerable time.

Mr Morris states, in his Accounts the following Sums passing thro' the hands of Mr. Grand.

1777	Livres	3,000,000 =	dlls 556,556
1778		3,000,000 =	556,556
1779		1,000,000 =	185,185
1780		4,000,000 =	740,741
1781		7,626,000 =	1,411,408
1782		9,642,903 =	1,807,566
1783		6,000,000 =	1,111,112
	Livs	34,268,903 =	6,367,124 dollars

And now Sir, before I close this letter let me make one further observation with respect to the future supplies from his Majesty. To solicit them is considered as asking assistance in a war whose object is of the last importance to us. This is the point of view in which I have placed it, & in which I am desirous that it should stand. But there is another method of looking at it, & altho delicacy will forbid me so to represent it, yet you may depend that there are many who have taught themselves to reason about it in a different way from what you or I would wish. Whether Britain will acknowledge our independence is a question which is to be answered only with some modification. If in consequence of such an acknowledgement we would forego our connections with France there is no manner of doubt that She would make it immediately. This would

on our part be wrong & therefore it ought not to be done; but Sir, when this great object shall be presented on one side & the weight of new & great taxes be felt on the other, with all their ancient prejudices & predilections in aid will there not be some men who for the shades of ease will quit the paths of virtue.

From R. Morris to B. Franklin Dec. 4. 1781

The sum directed to be paid on account of Mr. Hulker is in part of clothing purchased here for our troops, thanks to the bad management in Holland N. B. There was no bad management in France, where many millions advanced to D. Franklin from year to year did not furnish in three years a single Uniform to the Army.

Vauban computes that France contains upwards of 627 men in a square league of 2282 toises — but he found in Brittany, Picardie Artois & Normandy he found 700

M. de la Rochandiere found in the generality of Rouen 1258 in a league square of 2400 toises, in that of Lyons 866 & in that of Auvergne 640 — according to M. de Vauban France, exclusive of Lorrain, contains 24 Mill?

The Abbé Expilly computes 21 or 22 Mill? in the whole

The Farmers general calculate upon 18 Mill? cords de marc of tobacco See Chastellux de la felicité publique tom. II. p. 134

1781

Senatus Universitatis Harvardianæ, Cantabrigiensis, in Republica Massachusettensi, omnibus ad quos literæ præsentes pervenerint; Salutem in Domino sempiternam.

Cum enim in finem gradus academici instituti fuerint, ut viri disciplina, sapientia et virtute insignes, qui et de re literaria et de Republica optime meruerint, honoribus laureatis remunerarentur; maxime decet, quod hujusmodi honore afficiatur vir ille admodum honorabilis Arthur Lee, virginiensis, Armiger rebus historicis, scientiisque philosophicis ac medicis præclarus; in legibus vero tam Naturæ et Gentium, quam civili et municipali versatissimus; qui jura Americana, legibus Britannicis turpiter impleta, apud istam gentem, bello nondum exorto, strenue defendit ac propugnavit. Cum his rebus commendatum, unum ex Legatis, qui amicitiam ac fœdus cum rege christianissimo Ludovico XVI solicitarent et sancirent, designavit Congressus: Ex quo fœdere quamplurima et maxima ad nationem Americanam, terra marique copiose adjutam, beneficia redundarunt et redundatura sunt.

Notum igitur esto, quod nos Præses et Socii, consentientibus honorandis admodum ac reverendis Universitatis antedictæ Inspectoribus, honorabilem Arthurium Lee supranominatum,

juris utriusque, tum Naturæ et Gentium, tum civilis, honoris causa, Doctorem statuimus et creavimus; eique dedimus atque concessimus omnia jura, privilegia, dignitates ac honores, quibus ad ejusmodi gradum insignem, gentium vestis ornantur, vel ornari debent.

In cujus rei testimonium, litteris hisce, nostro communi sigillo munitis, Die Decembris XIX Anno Salutis humanæ MDCCLXXXI, Reipublicæ Americanæ VI, apposuimus chirographas.

Passer
Scott
Thomson

Hon. A. Lee Dipl. Comm.

Ordre Maison
for Maine &c
122

(No 368) No date

Mrs Williams at 160£ & I had for our
respects in Lancaster & London 48£ —
I am desirous to bring an adjustment of
the affairs in this county, & hope you will
be pleased to decide when it shall be
done & how — when the divisions have
been duly by the Lawyers, or what
a journey — the affair will be attended
with some delay & expence, therefore if
he is not eligible, as I do not think
the fault even which may take place
by acting from the Lawyers, of any con-
sequence to either party — to the enquiries
above I have by memorial acknowledge-
ment — received the worst lot at Ke-
pan Lands & is Lands & the inferior lot
I reserve both in London & Lancaster —
Having purchased Mr. Tindals dower in
the Falls Lands, I hoped the conjoined
would after making the division equal
have given the — lot most convenient
to the dower lot I me — the only con-
venience which one lot had over the other

was in endeavours — the Sentiments and
in one instance interesting many
Inquiries & grave fields — the Commissio-
ners instead of consulting my convenien-
which was certainly what I had a
right to claim, acted severely, & wait-
to learn from you & me before they
proceed further — It is the only instance
in which I have ever claimed the custom
of the country with respect to priority —
if the country will not be denied, I shall
yet be relieved, I am to be denied, I shall
continue my visit on an assignment by Lt-
Gen Smith. I returned Saturday night
from Alexandria — the French troops re-
ceived orders to continue their march to
Baltimore — A report from Rec. York
mentions the evacuation of Charleston &
adds, that it was burnt by accident-
some late letters from Gen Greene seem
to discredit this report, as the general
says, there was not any appearance
of such an event — the taxes are
collected in the upper county, with
great readiness — they are assessed with
the utmost inequality, the Farmers tax in

1781

Annes [illegible]

Cenest qujourdhuy, Monsieur, que la lettre que vous maviez fait lhonneur de mecrire le 2 Juin mest enfin parvenue avec le recueil de vos Constitutions que vous avez eu la bonté de menvoyer. Je vais lire avec empressement ce dépot precieux dune legislation que nia point encore. Tout le monde en verra avec plaisir dans Lhistoire des nations qui se sont avancées dans la voie de civilisation parfaite au moment ou elles se sont formées. Cette reflexion promet beaucoup et Jespere que la suitte justifiera les esperances quelle donne. cependant Je vous avouerai que Je naime pas les intrigues et les manoeuvres dont vous me faites part. Je ne dis pas que Je ne les aime pas en elles memes, cela va sans dire. Mais ne sont elles pas sujettes aux inconveniens facheux. quid leges sine moribus? Ceux qui viendront apres nous le sauront. Il faut du tems pour quune aussi grande edifice prenne son assiette.

Jay eu lhonneur de vous mander il y a environ un mois que dès que Je serois de retour a paris Je prendrois soin de minformer de ce que sont les choses que vous y avez laissées. mandez moy sil vous plait ce que Je devrois faire en cette occasion, et soyez sur quen toute occasion, Je me ferai un plaisir extreme de pouvoir vous servir.

Les nouvelles que vous me mandiez le 2 Juin n'etoient plus des nouvelles pour moy lorsque vous le croyez bien. cependant le detail de laffaire de Guildford house ma fait grand plaisir et mest parvenue avec tout ce que Jaurois lu sur la situation des affaires me paroit fort [illegible] elle sera encore meilleure lannée

7

prochaine suivant toutes les apparences.

La lettre que vous m'avez adressé par mr Palpy votre consul Aumois de decembre dernier ne m'est point parvenue. Si les miennes ont eu plus heureux celle cy est au moins la troisieme que vous aurez reçue depuis Six mois. Je compte sur tout sur celle que j'ai fait partir de Brest a la fin de Septembre et qui doit être a present bien pres de Philadelphie.

Je compte rester encore un an ou dix huit mois ou Six Semaines après quoy je veux m'acquitter de votre commission pour mr de Malesherbes. Je trouverai a Paris mad. Izard qui a quitté Bruxelles ou une de ses filles etoit toujours malade et ou elle recoit plus rarement par la presence de quelques parens qu'elle avoit dans cette ville le qui l'ont quittée.

Adieu Monsieur Vous connoissez mon sincere et inviolable attachement.

Monday Jan. 28 1781

Remarks upon the title of Virginia to the Western Lands in refutation of the Pamphlet called Public good.

In 1606 a Company of Gentlemen obtained a Charter under the great Seal of England for the Country called Virginia under the faith of which Charter began the settlement of this Country then a Wilderness, which with a great expence of blood & treasure to the first settlers & thro' infinite toils, & perils was at last effected. This Charter was confirmed & enlarged in 1609 under which we now claim.

In 1624 the King put himself in the place of the Company as to the government of the Country, without the consent of the Inhabitants, & thus it became a royal, instead of a proprietary government.

Those who wish to add Virginia to her territory, for the benefit of certain pretended purchases of land-mongers, the pretended Public good, make great use of this change, as if it cancelled the Charter, & thereby took from the original

Settlers from us their Descendants the rights derived from the Charter. But in this there is neither truth nor justice. The Charter was under the great Seal. The Inhabitants had done nothing to forfeit it, & the transaction between the Proprietary Company & the Crown for a change of the exercise of Sovereignty from the Company to the King, could not affect their rights which were distinct from those of the Company.

The Crown therefore being in the place of the Company proceeded to grant Lands to Settlers, as the Company had done, by its Governor & Council.

In 1754 the Commissioners from the Province purchased at a solemn treaty held at Lancaster, from the Six Nations of Indians, all the Western Lands within the limits of Virginia, which treaty was confirmed by the Ohio Indians at Logstown in 1752, & the Deed was witnessed by Wm Trent & George Croghan, who have since purchased or pretended to have purchased

[illegible] of these very [illegible] of the Indians
for the Indiana & other Companies. It is
plain therefore that they at least knew
they were purchasing what had been sold
to others by a Deed to which they were
witnesses. Yet these are the men who
are petitioning Congress to deprive the
State of Virginia, & those who
hold Grants from the State, of
these very Lands. Then which there
certainly cannot be an act of greater or
more deliberate dishonesty. Yet to deceive
others into a belief that they have a fair
& honest claim, they hold out the
by a promise of 12000 acres of the land to
write a pamphlet under the title of pub
lic good for [illegible] purposes, the disguise of [illegible] endeavor
ing to persuade mankind that Virginia
had no title. To cloath private [illegible] with
views under the profession of public good
is an old trick, the common practice of knaves.

the object is to get these lands into the hands of Congress under pretence of their being applied to pay the national debt incurred by the war, & then they are to be made over to these companies. To secure this, the Agents of those companies have given large sums to members of Congress & other persons of great influence in the different States, & have offered Congress ten thousand pounds Sterling to make good this grant. This sum would not pay thousandth part of our debt, & the lands they offer it for amount to at least ten millions of dollars. And that this is the plan is plain from hence, that the State of Virginia has offered to cede to Congress the better half of those lands, provided they are applied to public use, & not given to the land-jobbing companies, & Congress has refused to accept it on those conditions.

Let us now consider the troops of the State of Virginia.

The King in council, of England, not knowing found out as Mr. Paine & the Indiana company have, that the Lands on

Lands on the Ohio were not within the Colony of Virginia, directed the Governor of Virginia in 1748-9 to make a Grant to the Ohio Company which in these words — It is our will & pleasure & you are hereby directed & required forthwith to make a grant or grants to the said Petitioners & their Associates of 200,000 Acres between Romanello & Buffalos Creeks on the southside of the River Allegany, otherwise the Ohio, & between the two Creeks & the yellow Creek on the northside of the River as aforesaid to the westward of the great mountains, within our Colony of Virginia.

Here we see that so far back as 1748 the King in Council, thought & declared in express words that the western Lands on both sides of the Ohio, were within the Colony of Virginia

But they certainly cannot be supposed to have known so much of the matter, or to have been such proper Judges, as the writers of the pamphlets called Publick good, Mr. Williams, & Mr. Samuel Wharton, who have been intriguing in London & Philadelphia to plague this State & the Settlers under it, of their property

In the years 1753 & 1754 the King of England gave his assent to two acts of the Assembly of Virginia — for encouraging & protecting his

his faithful Subjects in settling on his Lands in this Colony, on or near the waters of the Mississippe

Again we find the Lands on the waters of the Mississippi, declard to be in the Colony of Virginia by the most public & authentic of all Declarations, the Acts of the Legislature apented to here by the King's Governor, & in England by the King himself. And yet in 1768, the Indiana Company pretend, that these Lands belonged to the Indians, & thro the Indians to them.

These proofs would establish that Country as much a part of & belonging to Virginia, as the Lands upon James, or York or any other river in that State. But there are yet more proofs of the highest authenticity.

On the 16th May 1754, the Governor & Council of Virginia published in the Gazette as follows

"The method of taking up Lands in this Colony, & the easy terms on which they are held of the King, not being well known to the Inhabitants of the northern Provinces, may be the reason, that so few of those People, the much straitned for good Lands, travel hither in search of a fine soil, & greater extent of Country; therefore the publishing the method

Terms on which they are granted here, may be of use to promote the settlement & cultivation of the finest Lands perhaps in the world, that lie to the westward of the Allegany mountains, along the several branches of the Mississippi. With that view this authentick State of the rules of taking up & patenting Lands in this government, are offered to the public".

Such was the [illegible] public declaration of the Chief of this State, the practice of it in granting the very Lands now in question. This was made to all the World & Mankind, with a generous invitation to the People of all or any of them, to come & partake in the grant of this valuable territory. There was no foreign power, nor Company, nor Individual that questioned the right of Virginia. This remained to be done near forty years after, by such Adventurers as Henry, Wharton, & Paine. The general & generous invitation which this Advertisement holds out, proves also the injustice of the charge of selfishness, which these

Hostilities urge against the People of Virginia.

In 1754 a fort that was building by the Ohio Company, where Pittsburg now stands was destroyed by the French & their Allies near the Waters of the Monongahela were driven off. This was the beginning of the war with France which ended in 1762.

To repel this Invasion the Assembly of Virginia raised a regiment & the then Governor Dinwiddie promised by proclamation 200,000 Acres in the Ohio Country to the men raised under Col. Fry for that expedition. The Lands promised by this proclamation were surveyed & patented for the Officers & Soldiers in 1771-2 on the waters of the Monongahela & great Kanawa.

It is worth observing, as a proof of the execrable wickedness of these Land-Mongers that William Trent, who pretends to have purchased these Lands from the Indians as belonging to them & not to Virginia, was employed & paid by the Ohio Company in 1752, as their factor to carry on trade with the Indians in that Country, which had been

granted to settle by them, & on the invasion of this territory by the french & Indians this same Grant received from the Governor Dinwiddie a Captains Commission under which he was to drive off the Enemy encroaching the Lands on the Ohio. This Commission from the Governor of Virginia directs him to "distroy destroy drive away, & in case of opposition & resistance, to kill destroy or take prisoners, all & every person & persons whatsoever, not subjects of the King of Gt Britain, who now are or shall hereafter come to take possession of lands on the said River Ohio, or on any of the branches or waters thereof."

For what reason could Mr Grant receive of the Governor give such a Commission, but that the Lands on the Ohio & its branches, were within the Colony & to be governed? For this reason too it was that the Assembly of Virginia immediately voted ten thousand pounds to raise three hundred men for the defence of those Lands.

The Colony of Pensylvania, whose claim had been since settled, was the only one that stood in these Lands with Virginia, & that in a small part at that time. The Governor of Pensylvania made no scruple to declare in his Speech to his Assembly, that the remainder belongd to Virginia as may be seen in the following

Extract from his Speech to the Assembly of Pennsylvania in Aug.st 1753.

Gentlemen By the intelligence contained in the several Papers, now laid before you, it may be expected that the County of Allegany situate on the waters of the Ohio, partly within the Limits of this province & partly within those of Virginia, already, or will be in a very little time invaded by an Army of French & Indians.

It is only necessary to observe here that the County of Allegany includes all the western territory north of the Ohio, which fell within the Pennsylvania line, all the rest of the Lands on waters of the Ohio being by the Governor says within the Limits of Virginia.

We have now seen that Virginia held these waters by every title which it is possible to imagine — by the King's Charter under the great Seal — by purchase & treaty with the Indians — by Acts of Assembly enacted by the Kings Governor & by the King granting these Lands to Settlers as a part of Virginia — by the Kings own grant to the Ohio Company with covenants made accordingly — by the blood &

treasure & the people expended in defending it from the French & Indians — by grants from the Governor & Council to the Officers & Soldiers who defended it, & settlements made ~~pursuant to such grants~~.

On these un-impeachable foundations the title of Virginia stood, when the King's proclamation in 1763, drew the line between the then Colony of Virginia & the Indians. This proclamation attempted to ~~vest that territory~~ ~~in the Crown~~, by the head springs of the Rivers running from the Allegany mountain, to the east, into the atlantic Ocean. Upon this proclamation the Land-mongering companies built all their hopes. By this they say the Crown restored to the Indians all the Land west of the Allegany, so that it was in their power to sell them to whom they pleased. In consequence of this power they contend that the Indians did actually sell part of them to a set of men called the Indiana Company at the treaty of Stanwix in 1768 & the remainder to the Crown in 1770, which

the King intended to have granted to another company called Vandalia & which they are now endeavouring to get Congress to make good to them. Let us candidly examine the facts these first, whether it was in the power of the Crown secondly, if it was in the Kings power, whether he had done it.

We have seen, that these western lands were made part of Virginia by a charter under the great seal, which extended the Colony westward to the South sea, that is as far as it could go - by the treaties of Lancaster & Logg's-town in which the Indians had parted with all their claim to them - by the several acts of assembly in which the King had encouraged & authorized grants & settlements there as in part of Virginia - by the Kings own grant of great part of the Lands to the Ohio Company - & lastly by an infinite number of grants made by the Kings governor, & the settlements of the country in consequence of such

especially Mr. Trent & Mr. Wharton who have devoted their ~~time~~ money & their labor to the acquisition of the Lands under consideration with the full approbation of all parts of the british government will be considerd as most justly & equitably entitled to their respective Shares of the Lands contracted for. It is not unknown, it is presumd, to the Honble Committee that cutting down a few trees, or planting a few acres of ground always gave the Locater, (who thus mixed his labor with the vacent ground) the preemption of the tract, which he thus proposd to settle, or in other words gave him the preference of all others to the said tract. This was the invariable rule in Pensylvania before the revolution. Mr. Wharton & Mr. Trent hum bly hope & trust, that as the U. S. have succeeded to the Sovereignty of the Lands westward of the Allegany mountain to govern

to those above alluded to — That the Congress of the U. S. will think it just & reasonable, that they in particular, & the other well-affected American Gentlemen, & M. le Roy de Chaumont concerned in the premises, have a perfectly equitable title for their several shares — as to the other Partners, who reside in G. B. & are Subjects of the Prince of that kingdom, Mr. Wharton & M. Trent fervently hope — that the wisdom & justice of Congress will be exercised towards them, —

Mr. Trent, & Mr. Wharton are ready to pay to Congress the consideration money & duties for their respective shares, agreed for with the british government.

Philadelphia Dec. 28. 1781.

Signd Wm. Trent
Samuel Wharton

A Concise view of the Title of Va. to the Western Lands in refutation of the Pamphlet called "Public Good"

This Paper may appear to be a burlesque upon the claim it was intended to support; but it is actually among those delivered into Congress by the Com

…ord that their
…such a glaring impo
…sition, …offer themselves to a…
…ought to become into an …
…belief of it.

The claimants on the …
of Vandalia, may perhaps com…
…ing notice if the arguments they ad…
…ced in support of their demand should
not be stated. I am unwilling to
withhold them; & that they may have
their full weight shall give them
a hole of the paper containing them.

It is entitled, a few hints respectfully
submitted to the Hon.ble Committee of
Congress upon the subject of Vandalia

The Proprietors of Vandalia in
curred an …expence of near twenty
thousand pounds pensylvania Curr.y

ex fees &c paid to the
rent departments of the Sta
Trade the privy Council — the Attorney
ctor general — to Solicitors, Coun-
rs at Law &c for the expence of a
aty on the plains of Sicto &c &c as Mr.
Trent & Mr. Wharton can prove

Mr. Wharton was absent near ten
years prosecuting the business of Van
-dalia, & incurrd an expence of ten thou
sand pounds currency, & Mr. Trent was
employd in the same service seven
years, & expended in the same proportio
-n as Mr. Wharton — & nothing prevented
their obtaining a royal grant for the Lands
in question but the Revolution, which has
happily taken place in the 13 Colonies

If the British Partners should be consi
derd as not under the protection of the U. S.
& therefore not entitled to their shares, it is hum
bly hopd & expected, that such of the Part-
ners as are good citizens of these States, and

1780 or 81 ?

13 Oct. 79 ?

mon éloignement de Brest que j'ay quitté depuis 15 jours ne m'empeche pas, Monsieur, de savoir qu'il va partir une fregate pour la partie du monde que vous habitez. J'en profite pour vous repeter que dès le moment que je serai a Paris, je m'informerai des effets dont vous m'avez envoyé la notte par votre lettre du 15 juin. Il faut attendre deux mois car je ne pourrai retourner a Paris que dans le courant de decembre. J'attens encore les Lettres que vous avez de la bonté de m'envoyer. J'ai dit donné ordre qu'on les fit partir par la voiture publique; mon impertinent de portier a tardé et a voulu attendre une occasion. Il m'a fort impatienté, mais on ne peut pas trop gronder un homme qui cherche a s'enrichir sur un objet ou il est evident qu'il n'y peut avoir aucun avantage pour lui.

J'espere que ce que vous m'avez mandé d'un homme qui veut se retirer dans ses terres du sud ne sera pas son dernier mot et que je le verrai encore dans quelque employ public; je souhaite fort que ce puisse etre en Europe. Agrées le bon je

vous prie de tout tems croire que Sy jeprends le ne doute jamais
des sentimens que Jeroms ai vous pour la vie

Account of. Monies paid to. Mons.r Chaumont by Ferdinand Grand Esq.r Banker in Paris from the 1.st March 1780 to the 28 January 1782. Extracted from the Account of said Grand .....

1780 Mar.	15	paid him by Order of D.r Franklin	250.000. " "
Apr	12	... d.o ... M.lle of Chaumont by Order of d.o	1.341. 12. "
July.	22	.... d.o ..... d.o ..... by Order of d.o	509. 8. "
	31	.... d.o ... himself ..... by Order of d.o	250.000. " "
Oct.r	2	... d.o ... M.lle of Chaumont by Order of d.o	1251. 1. "
Nov.r	15	.... d.o ... himself ..... by Order of d.o	250.000. " "
1781 Mar.	19	... d.o ... his draft of the 10.th Novem.r by Order of d.o	200.000. " "
May.	30	.... d.o himself by order of D.r Franklin for furniture purchased of him	600.000. " "
		Livres ...	1.353.102. 1. "

12-0241

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Account of Monies paid to Jonathan Williams by Ferdinand Grand Banker in Paris from the 1st. March 1780 to the 20. January 1782 Extracted from the Account of said Grand.....

1781				
Jany.	12th	Caid his draft of the 14th Septem[r]		12103. 1. "
	"	d[o] his d[o] of the 14th d[o]		24.660. 8. 6
	"	d[o] his d[o] of the 1st d[o]		8.106. 14. 2
	13	d[o] his d[o] of the 14th d[o]		2.753. 4. "
	"	d[o] his d[o] of the 6th d[o]		3.506. 8. "
	16	d[o] his d[o] of the 8th d[o]		4.083. 4. "
	17	d[o] his d[o] of the 9th d[o]		5006. 8. "
	20	d[o] his 2d[o] of the 12th d[o]		3006. 8. "
	23	d[o] his 5d[o] of the 15th d[o]		7.374. 8. "
	24	d[o] his d[o] of the 16th d[o]		17.027. 6. "
	29	d[o] his d[o] of the 21st d[o]		6.003. 4. "
	30	d[o] his d[o] of the 16th January		25000. " "
	"	d[o] his d[o] of the 16th d[o]		17.014. 10. "
Febr.	3	d[o] him p[r] order D. Franklin		4.204. 18. "
	12	d[o] d[o] p[r] order d[o]		2.088. 18. "
May	22	d[o] d[o] p[r] Order d[o]		10.000. " "
June	2	d[o] d[o] p[r] Order d[o]		5757. 10. 3
Sept.	11	d[o] his draft of the 16th August		4.100. " "
			Livres.	153.796.12. 5

Note Jonathan Williams is credited by Mr. Grand for 25000 Livres received on the following dates viz.

1781 Jany. 27	5.769. 11. 2	
Febr. 15	7.230. 8. 10	
Mar. 9	12.000. 0. 0.	25.000. " "

1781	Account Continued ..... Brought forward		152.330. 0. 1
Mar 6	Paid their draft of the 20th Decemr.		1.002. ". "
15	d°. their ... d°. of the 29th ... d°		1.500. ". "
April 6	d°. their ... d°. of the 27th ... d°		1 138. 17. 6
May 18	d°. their ... d°. of the 9th. April		1 197. ". "
19	d°. their ... d°. of the 9th ... d°		610. 5. "
June 16	d°. their ... d°. of the 7th ... d°		930. ". "
18	d°. their ... d°. of the 9th ... d°		6.062:13: 3
July 21	d°. their ... d°. for reimbursing the expenses attending the Alliance.		30.804. 3. 3
1782 Janr. 28	d°. their ... d° of the 22d. October		3.270. 11. 10
	Livres.		200.918. 15. 11

Note. Messrs Gourlade & Moylan are credited by Mr. Grand for three Bills drawn on him to Amt. of 12672 16 11 said to be twice charged by him on the 10th & 16th. August 1780.

one dated the 19th July for	5.494. 1. 11	
d°. the 20th. d°	1. 178: 15. "	
.....	6.000. ". "	12.672. 16. 11

Account of Monies paid to Messrs Courlarde & Moylan by Ferdinand Grand Esqr. Banker in Paris from the 1st March 1780 to the 28 January 1782 Extracted from the Account of said Grand ....

1780 Augt	8	Paid their draft of the 15th July	5 Lyl. 6.. 11
	10	D.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 21st d.o	7 178. 15.. "
	16	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 13th d.o	12. 672. 16. 11
Septr.	11	.. d.o .. their .. d.o of the 25th August	900. .. ..
	27	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 7th September	672. 13.. "
Octr.	17	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 7th .. d.o	5. 608. 2.. ..
	21	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 11th Octr.	9 000. .. ..
	31	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 23d .. d.o	2.000. .. ..
	"	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 23d .. d.o	2 133. 9..
Novr.	13	.. d.o .. their 3d.o .. of the 6th September	1.700. .. ..
	20	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 3 instant	12 000. .. ..
	27	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 18th October	14.000. .. ..
	29	.. d.o .. their .. d.o	907. 6.. 4
	"	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 24th October	9.023. 18. 9
Decr.	5	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 26th .. d.o	1 200. .. ..
	11	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 5th September	3 171. 13. 6
	22	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 18th October	13.000. .. ..
	"	.. d.o .. their .. d.o	2 538. 17. 2
	29	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 20th October	7.000. .. ..
	30	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 26th .. d.o	1.500. .. ..
1781 Janry.	12	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 3 November	2 000. .. ..
	18	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 29th September	84. 13..
	20	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 11th .. d.o	2.000. .. ..
	26	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the	1 242. 5..
	"	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 13th October	13.000. .. ..
	28	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 20th .. d.o	7.000. .. ..
	29	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 21th .. d.o	1 218. .. ..
Febry.	1	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 29th Novbr.	2 127. .. ..
	5	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 27th .. d.o	611. 5.. ..
	6	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 28th .. d.o	1.046. .. ..
	7	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 29th .. d.o	2.320. .. ..
	"	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 29th .. d.o	1 347. 3.. 9
	26	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 13th .. d.o	1 010. .. ..
	28	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 20th .. d.o	3.719. 9. 8
Mar.	3	.. d.o .. their .. d.o .. of the 21th Novbr.	304. 10..
		Amot. Carried forward	152.830 0.. 1

Dear Sir

Boston Jan.y 31. 1782

I have the pleasure to acquaint you, that at a meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, you were yesterday elected by an unanimous vote, a Fellow of the Academy. You will give me leave to congratulate that Society on the accession of so valuable a member.

I communicated to them, at the next meeting after receiving it, the Letter you some time ago favoured me with, relative to the progress & effects of lightening upon a house in Philadelphia. They were much pleased with it, and would be glad to be favoured with your further communications.

I have the pleasure also to inform you, that the Corporation of our University at Cambridge have conferred on you the degree of L.L.D.: and the diploma will be sent to you at first opportunity.

The Letter I wrote you the last July or March, enclosed

Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

enclosed in one to Mr President Huntington, it does not appear you have received. I imagine it miscarried, and was probably found the way to York: Several mail riders having been taken & carried thither about that time. The Military Gentry encouraging the pilfering of mails, have at last been taken in. Some of the intercepted letters, written with a design to fall into their hands corroborated by corresponding manoeuvres of the allied Army, have totally deceived them as to the object & its operations. Hence the capture Cornwallis and the happy consequences, we expected of that important event. So important that you will not think it out of time even now to congratulate you upon it, which I do most fervently; and am with sincere esteem, Dear Sir

Yr most Obedt Hble Servt

James Bowdoin

The Ladies of Mr Temple, who arrived here last October, present their most respectful Compliments to you.

1

a List of Negroes who have died at the Falls

by Information of William Barnes & Mr Williams

	age		age
1 Ombar	60	15 Harry burnt for want of care	2
2 Jack	60.		
3 Dan	30.	16 a boye Son of Sally.	2 Mo
4 Nan	65.	17 Archey	2
5 Pegg, supposed to have bun kild by a Rich Stubsfield Over. when with child	22	18 Rose	3
		19 a child of Henry.	3 Mo
		20 Joe of Peg	3
6 Suckey, in child bed.	25.	21. Fanty of Jenny.	2.
7 Suckey	24.		
8 Milly, froze to death on the road	10		
9 Letty	1½		
10 Dinah	18		
11 Nanny burnt to death	12		
12 Will	50		
13 Letty	7		
14 Sam	2½		

A List of Negroes who have died at the Sugar Lands in the 7 last years under Joel White overseer by information of said White

	age		age
1 Samson	22.	5 Pegg	7
2 Bab	25.	6 Hannah	1½
3 Dirty	22.	7 Pegg	6 mo.
4 Cripple	18.	8 Abraham	10.

List of Negroes who have died at the Sugar Lands in the 4 last years under Wm Dobell overseer by information of said Dobell

	age
1 Charles	30
2 Cooper	25.
3 James	18
5 Rena	25.
6 Solomon	1

List of Negroes who have died at the Sugar Lands in the 7 last years under Joel White overseer by information of said White — 1782. 1 Aug.

at the Falls	21.
at Sugar Lands under Joel White in the 7 last years	8
at ditto under Wm Dobell in the 4 last years	6
Total	35

T. L. L.

My D.r Brother

Bruxelles Feb.y 12.th 1782

That you may know the Fate of such letters as you may have written, 'tis proper for me to inform you, that it is near four years since I have rec.d a Letter from you of any kind & above seven years since I rec.d one about private business; I flatter myself however that you have taken care to pay off with paper money the Debts of every kind that I owed in Virginia, or at least that you have made legal tenders for that purpose with the said money, in which I hear the Debts due to me have been discharged; & to prevent any omission or mistake in this business, I again inclose you a list of all the Debts I owed in Virg.a in May 1777, since none can have been contracted by me

You will find also inclosed a copy of my Acc.t agt. our Fathers Estate, the Bal: due to me the 5th Nov. 1781, being £2996.9.7½ Ster.g, which Acct. I wish you to get certified & sign'd by the acting Executors or Administrators of our late Br.r Phil. Lud. Lee, he having been the only acting Executor of our late Fathers Estate. When this Acct. is so sign'd & certified, I wish to have it recorded in Westmoreland County Court, & I request of you to let me know by repeated letters, what is done in this business.

In Sept.r last Congress order'd that the Superintendant of Finances should pay me £2189 Livres, as soon as the Public Finances w.d admit. — The Time of payment being thus left entirely at the discretion of the Superintendant, you will render one a most particular & essential Service, if you can prevail on the Superintendant to remit me, or pay directly, this money in good bills on Paris or Amsterdam. — I have mention'd this subject to both our Br.rs A. L. & R. H. L. — of the latter I have desir'd, to be inform'd particularly of all the

(Damages

Damage that has been done on the Estate at Spring during the last Campaign. To have all the fruit Trees in the Orchard replaced that may have been destroyed. To have a promising young Fellow, put Apprentice to the different Trades necessary for the use of such an Estate, to have the whole of Powhatan Swamp converted into a Timothy Meadow as fast as possible. This should be the present, even to the partial neglect of crops of Tobacco. This Letter being entirely on Private business, I shall conclude with telling you that my Family (except myself) are in tolerable good health; it consists of Mrs. Lee, one Son William Ludwell, 7 years old, two Daughters, Portia seven & Cornelia two years old. The last was born in this Town. You will readily agree, that in times like the present, with a broken constitution & reduced Fortune, these are enough to provide for, as they ought to be, however I cannot despair of seeing brighter days & of once more embracing you in Peace & happiness, when we can with pleasure look back on all the Dangers we have passed. ——— Heavenly bless & protect you & your Dear Sister in long life, Health & happiness, we all sincerely pray.

Farewell my Dr Brother

P.S. Should our Br. P. L. Lee ——— W. L.
have made any further payments to
to Dr Shippen of Philadelphia in discharge of my bond to him, than what is credited in the inclosed Acct. (tho' if any such payments were made, I never had any information thereof) they may be readily deducted from the ballance, without any difficulty or alteration in the Acct, as the whole of what was due to Dr Shippen, is by no means equal to the interest remaining due to me, without one farthing of advantage for such a number of years. ———

Extract (N 382) Office of finance feb.y — 1782

Sir,

The situation of my Department makes it necessary to lay some matters of importance before the United States in Congress & I shall endeavour to do so with as much precision as possible.—

It gives me pain to observe, that the States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, & Maryland have not yet passed the laws recommended by the resolutions of the 3d. of febv 1781. I learn (tho' not officially) that the State of Virginia has lately suspended the operation of the law which they had passed in conformity to that resolution. The bare mention of these things is sufficient to mark the consequences. Our debts being unfunded & unprovided for, the Interest cannot be paid. Those therefore, who trusted us in the hour of distress are defrauded. To expect that under such circumstances others will confide in the Government would be folly; & to expect that foreigners will trust a Government which has no credit with its own citizens would be madness. The whole weight therefore of the War must be borne in the present moment, And even the slightest anticipations of revenue are made on the personal credit of the Minister. This Sir, is not said boastingly but with unaffected concern. I have labored to establish a credit for my country, that then when the period should arrive (if I hoped it was not far distant) in which I could lay down the burthen now pressing upon me, my Successor in Office should have no other difficulties to struggle with, than those which necessarily attend an extensive & complicated administration. It is, therefore, with no common degree of anxiety & distress, that I see my wishes frustrated. I feel as I am.

an American for my Country, as a Public Servant for the Honor & Interest of those whom I serve, & as a Man that I cannot enjoy the ease & tranquility I have sought for, thro' a life of unremitted labor & continual care. It is my duty to mention to you the fact, & to apprize you that in such circumstances our operations will continue to be the desultory efforts of Individual power, rather than the combined exertions of Political strength & firmness.

The repeated assurances we daily receive from the Ministers of his Most Christian Majesty, of their steady determination to grant no further pecuniary aid, will not leave room to doubt of their intentions. I candidly acknowledge that I had formed not only hopes but even expectations from that quarter. For I had persuaded myself, that when the brilliant successes of the last campaign should be known, & when it should also be known how much the United States are capable of, & how necessary an aid of money is to call their power into action, the King would have again extended that relief which must be most beneficial to the common cause; Even now I shall request that Congress will instruct the Sec.y of foreign Affairs to make the most pointed representations on this subject, thro' our Minister at the Court of Versailles, & I shall readily furnish all such materials in my department, as may be necessary for the purpose: but I must not conceal my doubts as to the effect of such representations. Duty to this Country requires, that they should be made, but prudence forbids a reliance on their success, & will dictate to us a further ~~delay~~ del duty, which is to act under the influence of a belief, that they will not succeed. As to hopes of pecuniary aid from any other quarter, the delusion has already passed away. — Let us apply to borrow wherever we may, our mouths will always be stopped by the one word Security. The States will not give revenue for the purpose, & the United States have nothing to give but a general national promise, of which their enemies loudly charge

them

them with the violation. —

Thus Sir, compelled (however reluctantly) to look at home for the means of supporting ourselves, against an enemy whose power has ex=
=ten encreased, with the encrease of their foes, whose force has risen superi=
=or to defeats; & who has found resources in a situation which might have inspired despair; We must no longer rely on those who may neglect us, but take care, that we be not charged with neglecting ourselves. — The United States have called for eight millions of dol=
=lars early in Novr. last, of which the first quarterly payment was to have been made on the 1st. day of April next. But I cannot find that a single State has yet laid the taxes. Neither know what they will think proper to give, nor when. Happy to experience a mo=
=mentary relief from the clamor & revolt of a staving Army; from the rage & devastation of an inveterate enemy; & from the waste and extravagance of cumbrous, unwieldy Departments, there appear to be no solicitude any where, for the support of arrangements, on which the salvation of our Country depends. To give a little time for the People to breath, & to remedy some of the many abuses which were equally palpable and enormous, I early ventured on the business of contracting & I have extended it, as far as prudence would in any degree Justify. Nay, relying on the States for support, I have made engagements which in almost any other cir=
=cumstances would savor of temerity, & which nothing would have jus=
=tified to me, but a hope that by retrenching expences they would be sooner induced to grant revenue; So thoroughly am I convinced of the superi=
=or economy which attends the present mode of supplying our Armies, that I would have offered Contracts for the Southern Department could I form any well grounded expectation of monies sufficient for the purpose, from the Southern States. Nor should I have been deterred even by the distance of the period at which it could be had, If I

I could

could form a reasonable reliance on it, at some certain period. Our expen-
-ces it is true are retrenched, (& to give an Idea to what degree, I will menti-
-on that for the amount of salaries alone, in the Issuing Commissaries
Department to the Northward of Potomack River, between three & four thou-
-sand soldiers are now fed with full rations.) But tho' the retrench-
-ments are great, the expences are great also, & they must rapidly en-
-crease every moment, in preparing for an early & vigorous campaign.

A View either of general politics, or of our own situation, will impress the
conviction, that we ought to make an early & vigorous campaign. The
blow which the enemy have received in Virginia should be followed,
as soon as possible, before they have time for reflection, for reinforcement,
or for defence. We must not imagine that Great Britain will be so
stunned by this blow, that she cannot recover, or that she will
for such a check, abandon the object both of her interest & her
wishes. An object in which her national existence appears to be
combined with her national importance, & where every covetous &
angry passion is strongly excited. What aid she may find from
foreign powers must depend upon their manner of considering
the propositions which may be made; perhaps upon their Interests, and
perhaps upon their caprice. A Nation who can hold at bay, one half the
force of Europe, is by no means, a despicable Ally; but whether she gets aid
from others, or whether she draws it as before from the bowels of domestic
credit & confidence, this at least is certain, that we ought to expect new
efforts against us, & that we ought not to expect any in our favor, & that
we ~~are ready to~~ can strike before she is ready to ward the stroke, or bear the
blow; our own people will be animated, the doubtful will be con-
-vinced, & the convinced will be confirmed. Nations who are friendly
to us will give marks of Amity. Nations who are hostile will be

detained

detered from their attempts. the Councils of our enemies will be distracted. their intended succours may land on hostile ground, & where they want relief it may be too late to obtain it. At what point, & in what manner, & for what purpose our efforts are to be made is the province of the General to determine; but I repeat again that it is an Indispen=sibly duty to put him speedily in possession of the means. —

In order that any thing effectual be done, we must have — both Men & Money & we must have them early. On the 10th. Decr. last Congress were pleased to call on the States in the most pressing man=ner to have their respective Quotas in the field by the 1st. day of March next, & they determined that Recruits should be raised to compleat the quotas, at the expence of the States, in the first instance, to be reimbursed by the United States. The intention of these reso=lutions, however clear, may be misunderstood, & attempts made to deduct the expenditures of the recruiting service from the Sup=plies which were required by the acts of the 30th. Octo. & 3d. Novr. — At present, I shall only observe, that it gives me very sincere plea=sure to find the United States in Congress so fully impressed with the necessity of early efforts. This circumstance leads me to hope, that they will be equally impressed with the duty of urging a com=pliance with their requisitions. It is at least my duty to suggest it. A duty which I owe to America at large, & which no hope of praise, or apprehension of blame shall induce me to neglect. — But my voice Sir is feeble, & I must pray to be assisted by the voice of the United States in Congress. Supported by them I may perhaps do something. But without that support I must be an useless Incumbrance. —

It is also a duty to economize the monies which are in

your

our possession, & it receives a double force of obligation from the peculiarity of our circumstances. What monies the States may grant, & when they may grant them, is known only to him who knoweth all things, but that which we have is certain, & ought not to be expended, but for useful purposes. ~~&~~ Since then, the Congress cannot compel the States to make a grant of Money, they must at least take care to prevent the States from making an unnecessary expenditure of those monies which are in our possession. Nor is this all, we are called on, by the principles of Justice as well as of duty to prevent such expenditure. —

The requisitions of Congress have been for Men & for money. The States have furnished Officers & transmitted a variety of accounts, demands & complaints; but while the Officers continue numerous, they have neglected to provide Soldiers. Instead of it, some of them have form[illegible] Regiments, & given State bounties to fill those Regiments confined to the limits of the State, and if the ultimate object of military employment were the shew of parade, or to consume the fruits of the Earth). In the mean time the Continental Officers whose services have entitled them to respectful attention, and whose experience has enabled them to be essentially useful, are left without Men to command, & forced to bear the mortifications which must afflict every generous mind, at perceiving themselves an useless burthen to the Community. But while such pains are taken to enhance expence, every request of revenue to pay it, is treated with neglect. Congress have determined to keep up the establishment agreed on, in Octr. 1780: I shall therefore by no means propose any reduction; on the contrary, I am persuaded that nothing would so speedily terminate the War, as the bringing such an Army into the field with proper funds

& materials for its support & operation. This would render us truly Indepen-
-dent. Independent of the smiles of our friends & ~~scorn~~ the scorn of our foes. — This
is an expedient for halving a difficulty which ought to be wholly cured, &
at the same time it subjects the Individual Officer to very serious diffi-
-culties, which he has by no means merited. It is not the Officers fault
that he has not men, & while he holds himself in readiness to obey the orders of
his General, he ought to receive that compensation which his commission entitles
him to. He ought therefore to draw his full pay & subsistence, but until the State
provide Men for him to command, that pay & subsistance should be drawn
from the state. If the States will not find soldiers, the Continent ought not
pay their Officers. It is unequal, if it is unjust. Some States at a great ex-
-pence bring men into the field, and lay taxes for the general support. —
Others send Officers without Men, & draw money from the Treasury without
putting any in it. I am regardless where this censure lights, if it falls
no where, then all are innocent. But if it is made, those to whom it
applies must blame their own misconduct; my justification is al-
-ready made in the mind of every honest Man. —

But it is not only necessary that the States bring Men into the
field, It is necessary that this be done at an early period. Recruits
which do not join the Army until the Autumn, come too late,
for any thing but to encrease expence & to loose their lives by the dis-
-eases incident at that season, to those who have not the habits of a
military life. Nor is this all, Recruits sent forward at a late period
only serve to fill up the vacancies occasioned by sickness, Death &
desertions, without encreasing the effective force of the Army. — That
Congress may be enabled to judge of the saving which would arise from
the propositions I have had the honor of making with respect to the
Officers of our Army, I enclose an estimate by which it will appear, that

this

(№382) Robt Morris's Letters Penna

this would be upwards of sixty thousand dollars a month, to this must be
(No-281)
added a further consideration of very great importance, that as the servants
to Officers are taken from among the Soldiers, the Army would in effect
receive a considerable reinforcement. ——— I hope the decisions of
Congress will be as speedy as the nature of the case requires & the na-
-ture of the business will permit. With perfect confidence in their
Wisdom. —

I have the Honor to be Not copied by L.L.

Sir

Your Excellency's

Most Obed.t & humble Servant

Rob.t Morris

His Excellency

President Congress —

Rob.t Morris's
Letter for Security

1782

No 281.

Dr. Sir Dear

Jamaica Plain March 2. 1782

It was with the greatest satisfaction I read in the papers that Virginia has made choice of you to represent them in Congress, as one of their delegates. I will not it is your power to check the progress of, if not destroy, a certain influence, to which I imagine we may impute many disasters. Deacon Arnold being at length finished, characters of the basest complexion will furnish advantages against those that gave them their support countenance & confidence. Our friend Mr Samuel Adams would gladly have join you in Philadelphia; but has judged it of more importance to remain in the Massachusetts. He has found, that you had too much reason to remark, that there was not a free press in Boston. The gentleman that never sent you an invitation, may possibly, indeed it is probable that he will, have a chair again; but his elevation will make him more & more known, & when thoroughly known he will be no longer idolized.

I must caution you against putting too much confidence in Mr Lovell. When I made my last visit to Dr Cooper & Dear then in expectancy to Lechmere Point & back again by the way of Philadelphia, I heard him hint as circumstances, that I should be wanting in friendship was I not to hint at its being expedient to take care. I could mention, who are apprehensive that he rides too much with the Tide - I mean not the European, but the American Tide.

The reduction of Canada is a favorite topick with many. I could wish before it was attempted, that we might be assured of their joining the united Colonies & their not choosing a form of government inconsistent therewith, of their not giving the preference to a royal one, & of their not inclining to have a French Sovereign. I wish also to have the boundaries of Canada settled, lest the Canadians should claim according to the Quebec bill, or what was done, before it was conquered by Britain. I am for having these important matters agreed upon by Congress & the then Legislature. Should the British be dislodged, & we have to altercate these points afterwards, we should be in a very disagreeable situation.

Our friend Mr Gates has been hardly treated by Congress. He ought not to be slighted: but there have been in Congress who would have been glad had Burgoyne beaten him. He should be called into service again. Dr Rush can shew you a letter of his Brothers wherein the latter writes strongly in favour of his hopes. You will not need my recommendation to obtain a sight of it.

When you can write with safety, pray let me hear from you. All Boston joins in sincere respects

With your very humble, servant & real friend

William Gordon

Extract of a Letter from His Excellency Benjamin Franklin to the Secretary for foreign Affairs dated

Passy March 4th 1782

...

You desire to know whether any intercepted Letters of Mr Deane have been published in Europe? - I have seen but one in the English papers, that to Mr Wadsworth, and none in any of the french or dutch papers, but some may have been printed, that have not fallen in my way. There is no doubt of their being all genuine. - His - Conversations since his return from America, have as I have been informed gone gradually more and more into that stile, and at length came to an open Vindication of Arnolds conduct. - And within these few days he has sent me a Letter of twenty full Pages, recapitulating those Letters, and threatning to write and publish an Account of the Treatment he has received from

Congress.

Congress &c. He resides at Ghent, is distressed both in Mind and Circumstances, saves and writes abundance, as I imagine it will end in his going over to join his Friend Arnold in England. I had an exceeding good Opinion of him when he acted with me, and I believe he was then sincere and hearty in our Cause. But he is changed, and his Character ruined in his own Country and in this, so that I see no other but England to which he can now retire. He says we owe him about £2000 Sterling, and his great complaint is that we do not settle his Accounts and pay him. Mr Johnson having declined the service, I proposed engaging Mr Searle to undertake it but Mr Deane objected to him as being his Enemy. In my opinion he was for that reason fitter even for the service of Mr Deane's Fame Accounts are of a Mathematical Nature, and cannot be changed by an Enemy, while that Enemy's Testimony, that he had found them well supported by authentic Vouchers, would have weighed more than the fairest Testimony from

a Friend;—

Bruxelles March 11th 1782

My Dear Sir (No 388)

I have written to you several long letters lately, one of which will go by the Marq: la Fayette, since my last a new spirit has arisen in the H. Ho: of Com: Gen! Conway made a motion that the prosecution of an offensive War in Am.a sh. be put a stop to. This after a very long warm debate was carried ag.t the Ministry by 19 Majority; the Motion was then modell'd into an Address to the king, who gave an evasive, & I think rather insolent, answer; on this the Ho. of Com: without a division passed another resolve, that he that should advise or attempt to carry on an offensive War in Am.a, contrary to this sense of that House, sh.d be deem'd an Enemy to G. Britain & punish'd as such.

Thus for the present, the plundering & burning plans that had been concerted to be carried into execution this year under Arnold, are put a stop to. — The Nation at large is really anxious for Peace, yet it is clear that the Ministry will therefore be obliged to make some attempts that way this year, while all the force of G. B. will be principally employ'd ag.t the Navy of France: but as the K. thirsts as much as ever for the Blood & devastation of Am.a — unless they suffer some farther losses so as to render them utterly incapable of going on one moment longer, I fear that Peace will hardly take place this year, tho' if America by one vigorous exertion would get possession of New York & Chas. Town, the business of War w.d end immediately.

I have, thank God, tolerably got the better of the severe & dangerous illness that oppress'd me all last year & I believe if I had some active employment I sh.d soon recover my wonted strength & activity.

I rec.d yesterday your favor of the 15 of last July, by a vessel just arrived at Nantes in a short passage from Phil.a & a letter of Dec. 13th from y.r Son Thom: in Phil.a, but your letter, which it appears you sent by Thom. to forward from Phil.a, is not come to hand.

My Nephew remitted me bills for 1140 Livres which he says he purchased with £68 Virg. Cur.y & £7/16 for 5 Livres. in which he must be mistaken. Our B.r Arthur never mention'd to me what he had done with the 6800 Dollars, tho' he sent me the bills for the interest. The loss sustain'd on the Estate is not equal to what I expected it would have been; which I attribute entirely to your very friendly & prudent attention, for which you have our sincerest

y^r warm^t acknowligements, & to the care of the Stewards, who appears
as far as I can to have acted very properly. It remains now to take
care that the estate which remains, is not burthend with dispro-
portionate Taxes; attention to be paid to what I have recommended
in several of my late letters. I hope to hear soon that our B^r
A. is in Congress where I am sure he is able to render essential
service to his Country. Yourself & your whole Family have our
sincere & affect^t love, you begto be remembrd in the kindest manner
to all our Relations & Friends. Adieu. W. L.

1782

Wm Lee to R. H. Lee.

March 11th 1782

(No. 383) ~~No. 248.~~

To

Richard Henry Lee Esqr

of Chantilly, Westmoreland

County, Potomack River

Virginia

8 Pages

public & private distress and calamity, Mr Deane & his friends have amassed large fortunes, while every one else has suffered in his, must satisfy every man of the nature of his conduct".

[The chief objection to this is, that Deane made no fortune, but retired from the business of his agency in absolute poverty; — and thus the whole charge is false.]

A. Lee to Gen. James Warren.
Philad.a Apl. 8th 1782

"The detection of Deane seems not to have any odium or punishment on those, who countenanced or profited by his wickedness. Among these Dr Franklin & Robt. Morris are the most conspicuous. The latter was obliged to acknowledge in the newspapers, that he was in partnership with Deane, but pretended he thought him a man of honor. The Doctor by letters of the strongest recommendation endeavored to deceive congress into a renewal of their confidence in him with a new & important appointment. There are letters in town from Mr Searle, late member of Congress, that he has been repeatedly scandalized by hearing Mr Deane utter the vilest abuse against America and France, which is contained in his intercepted letters, at Dr Franklin's table, without any reprehension from the

Doctor. Under these suspicions Dr Franklin is appointed to negotiate a peace in conjunction with Mr Adams & others, because France wills it; and Congress are complaisant enough to say, they trust in his zeal & integrity. God forgives them. The fishery I am afraid is the object, and will be the sacrifice of this appointment. This question will come on this summer in Congress, & I think your ablest members should be present. But instructions from Congress will avail little if a corrupt commissioner is entrusted with them, & one, who, certainly never meaning to return to this country, will feel himself very easy about our reproaches while he is enjoying in France the reward of his treachery. I know from what passed at the treaties we concluded, that this monopolizing the fisheries is the object of France, and I am more sure that Dr Franklin will be the instrument of effecting it."

[Like the most of Mr Lee's assertions & predictions these proved to be false in almost every particular.

1. Dr Franklin abandoned Deane, when he deserted the cause of his country.

2. Dr. F. was not appointed a commissioner at the suggestion of the French ministry. They only used every effort to have colleagues appointed with Mr Adams, but without indicating the persons:

3. Franklin was a staunch defender of the fisheries from first to last.]

French attempts on Congress. 1782, when Carleton's communication of the determination of this Court to suspend hostilities in America was operating

April 2, 1782

D. T.

Spaniards taken post St. Joseph on the Illinois thinks they have a design to restrict us to the Allegance

~~J. Adams Mss 26~~

~~L. de Vergennes 8 June 1782~~

D. T. June 25 1782

Thinks the Enemy are for protracting the negociation since their success in W. I.

The Mss. cannot be said to be spent.

Digges depended the Prisoners of 2 or 300 pounds, which he obtained from one, he is gone for America having defrauded many others he is a rogue, Lowrey thinks

25th June J. Jay
high encomiums of
Dr. F.
29th June Dr. F.

Treaty not yet commenced. Mr. G. expects every day the Answer of the Court of England on wch they may begin.

Emperies appears to be sent over to obtain a seperate negociation with Carleton

Mr. Jay Apl. 28 1782

27. Sept. 1781 Congress promised the appointment of a person to negotiate a complaint of the Spanish Minister ag.st Comm.dr Gillon for having on board & refusing to give up two deserters from the Irish troops in service of Spain

Congress agreed that they ought to be delivered up. writes to the Comm.dr to that purpose. Commodore assured that the charge was groundless - nothing farther from the Minister or Mr. Lee.

Searle & others complain of Gillon - Not to send Carmichael but he did not think proper to go received an exculpatory letter from Gillon which he kept him his interference was unnecessary

consults with French minister whether he should press the Spanish minister, his opinion in the negative.

Appropriation & Ordonnance of the 5. Court touching Prizes.

Seizures & detentions for & an american Privateer for carrying a King's Letter, but no facts stated.

Grant of Letters to Dr. Franklin for paying of the Money Bills drawn on him by Congress. Thirty thousand pounds Sterling & more answer after demand - no answer from Dr. F. the 31 Dec.r to pay the remaining Bills

beginning Dec.
Had an audience of the Minister who told him
de Cerrejo had this Commission three months before
apply'd to Del Campo who tells him the 12th
Dec. that he had not Commission nor
can he tell when they will
Conference with French Ambassador, states
Union the delays used between the Minis-
ters & Del Campo. who said he had written
to Court de Vergennes who answered that
Spain best knew her own rights & interests
& that of France had no right to prescribe
them on such subject
16 March 1782
Dr. L. writes, his Correspondences so urgent
that he has not so long answering his letter
neglected, the Bills are pursuing
but must not be discouraged.

We have more reason to admire the patience
than to be satisfyd with the generosity of our
great & generous Ally.

15 The D.Y writes to Del Campo to know if he
has recend his Instructions
5th Del C answers the delicate state of
the ministri health has prevented him
from finishing the Instructions.
receives a Letter 19 The D.Y from Dr. L.
which gives him no hopes, as Dispute
with Holland demands, & cannot
obtain any assurances from french
Court, which he worries continually
on this subject, what I aim to do God
knows

Dr. F. thinks Congress ought immediately to recall Mr Jay.

Spanish Court has little money little credit & little dependance

15 feb.y visited the minister Del Campo who said France received from us no commerce that she advanced to us, but Spain was called upon for supplies without receiving any equivalent

25 feb.y Del Campo sent him Laberes account of what he had advanced & urged payment

Mr Jay thinks that the french Court does not wish to see us declared independent by other nations least we should become like mere pirates as we become less dependent on her for support.

9.th March the minister of Spain told him he might inform Congress that negociations would be immediately entered into.

The Spanish Gazette contains an account of a Party of Spanish Militia having taken possession in the name of the King of Spain, of the Illenois Country & River.

Sum protested for did not exceed 25,000 l.t

Resentment should have some share in our measures The connection of France with Spain make it improper to send Mr. Plenipotentiaries in the power of the former

T. Blanca invites him to his table on the Ambassadors day, but respectfully as a private person

Bruxelles 2d. May, 1782

Dear Sir.

Altho' I was almost the whole of last year so extremely ill, as to expect that my final dissolution was at hand, I wrote to you several times informing you I had not been able to make any advantage of the funds you placed in my hands; for reasons that in the present times, it would not be advisable to put on paper. To none of these Letters have I rec.d any answer, therefore this will be inclosed to my Brother, in hopes of his being able to get it safely to your hands, that you may know I have again got back into my hands about the amount of my principal money, — that there are several outstanding Acc.ts still to settle & that I have not been able, even from the very begining to get any proper account from the person entrusted to manage the business, tho' I have been pressing him for one in almost every letter for two years past. ——— During the present situation of things, I cannot in person act openly in business & from fatal — experience I find nothing profitable can be done under cover, therefore I have placed your money at interest in the hands of Count Clonard in Paris, subject to be call'd for from 6 Months to 6 Months. Please to let me know if you approve of this disposition, & should you draw for the money, let your bills be payable at three Months, at least, after sight.

In the meantime should I see any probable prospect of employing this money more profitably for you, in any scheme of Trade, I shall certainly do it.

The adventures to America, when successful in arriving, are very profitable, but the risk is so

great,

great, besides other obstructions, that I have never dared to venture any thing that way.

With great regard I am
Dear Sir
Your most Obliged Hble
Servt W. Lee

Memd. The Above Relates to a Thousand pound Sterlg I put into my Brothers hands in 1770 to be improved in the best manner he cou'd A Lee

Mr. Lotsom
of Maryland.

To

Mr. Lotsom

of

Maryland

1

1782 L1

Nov. 8. 1782

Nov. 11. &c.

Mrs Lee to Brockholst Livingston Esqr
Prey 8th 1782.
(See Note of Mrs Lee written.)

Dear Sir

Boston 10. May. 1782

My last was of Mr. John Brown inclosing the Waggoners receipt

I have found among my papers a letter from Dr. Franklin & another from Ray de Chaumont to our agents in France, Respecting the prize money of the Alliance, which I beg leave to present to you.

They are both attested Copies, and may perhaps effect something in our favour.

This will be handed you by Mr. David Sears, a worthy young gentleman, to whom I can refer you for any intelligence respecting your friends here—

I remain

with perfect esteem

Your most obedient Servant

S. Bloodget

Hon. R. Lee Esqr.

Office of Finance 10th May 1782

Sir

In consequence of the Act of Congress of the fourth Instant, I do myself the honor to enclose a State of the American Commerce, with a Plan for protecting it. I shall in obedience to the Orders of Congress, transmit a Copy of this Papers to the Commanders of his most Christian Majesty's Fleet in the West Indies, and make the Application which I am directed, to him, and to the Commander of the Fleet of Spain. I take the Liberty to suggest to the consideration of Congress, whether any application on this Subject to the Court of France, would not go with Propriety thro the Office of Foreign Affairs.

With perfect Respect

I have the honor to be &c.

His Excellency

The President of Congress

Robt Morris

In forming a State of the American Commerce, it will be proper either to consider what it might be, than what it is, and to confine the Idea of what it might be to the State of War, rather than go into the extent which a State of peace would permit. And to render this Subject as clear as possible it will be proper to divide the Trade into three different heads, as carried on from the eastern, Middle and Southern States, which may as to each district be further divided into the European & West India Trade. To these also may be added the circuitous or carrying Trade, which last must nevertheless be confined principally, if not altogether to the eastern States. The Principal Sea-Ports of the Southern States being at present in Possession of the Enemy, the following Observations occur. If the Enemy continue that Possession, very little, if any Commerce can be carried on. If the Possession of those ports is recovered to the United States, the same measures which are taken for protection of the Commerce under present Circumstances, will apply equally to those States & with greater security to all the States, because the Enemy would have fewer Ports from whence to fit out their Cruizers. And if the Rice and Indigo of the Southern States can be carried to Europe and the West Indies, those valuable Articles will form additional Inducements for protecting the American Commerce. The Middle States might export to Europe Tobacco, Tar, and in Cases of great Scarcity Wheat & flour. To the West Indias, they might export Pork, Beef, Bread flour Lumber, Iron and Tar.

The eastern States might export to Europe Masts, Spars, Ship Timber, Staves, Boards, fish and Oil. To the West Indias they might export Lumber Pork, Beef, Cattle, horses, Cyder and some smaller Articles. In a circuitous Commerce they would bring some of those Articles to the Chesapeak & take a freight

(of)

Of Tobacco for Europe, or also take Sugars from the Islands to Europe, and return with European commodities of the bulkier kind, such as Salt Wine, Brandy, fruit &c. — Of all this Commerce there exists at present but little more than that of Provisions to the West Indies and Tobacco to Europe. Why it is so curtailed, and why it might be extended to the Objects above mentioned will appear from considering the annexed Estimates of what the Tobacco trade now is without Convoy, as in N°. One, & what it would be with Convoy as in N°. 2. — from the former it is evident that the carriage of Tobacco to Europe is a bloomig Game, & could not be supported if the Cargoes of Goods brought out (and for which Bills of Exchange are remitted) did not by the freight compensate for the loss sustained on the outward bound Cargoes. From the latter it appears that Goods from France, might if the Ships were convoyed, be afforded much cheaper in America, & Tobacco from America much cheaper in France. — The Consequences resulting from France may be considered in a threefold point of View, as relating to each Country seperately, & to both conjointly. To America, or rather to the Planters of America would arise the Advantages of getting this Article for more money than at present, of getting the Quantity of European Goods necessary for their Consumption for less Money than at present, And consequently of having a clear Balance remaining, which drawn forth by Taxation would yield Revenue to Government. The People being thus relieved from the immediate Apprehension of War, & finding their Condition ameliorated would be more disposed to prosecute it with Vigor. Their Industry being better rewarded would be increased. The Produce of the Country would be greater, & by that means an Addition would be made to the aggregate Stock of national Wealth. France would be benefitted by receiving Tobacco at a cheaper Rate, by the

(Revenue)

Revenue arising from it by the greater consumption of her Manufactures which wo^d. follow from the increased conveniences & cheapness of Transportation from hither, and by securing the exclusive trade in that Article at least during the War. The mutual advantage of the two Countries and wo^d. be an Increase of friendship, Intercourse & commerce, & a greater knowledge of each others Manners, & consequently the means of adapting the wants & Produce of one to the wants & desires of the other. To these may be added a firm establishment of their commercial Principles during the War, so as to take away the Necessity of seeking for connexions made with other Countries after a Peace shall have been concluded. And that the Enemy will be deprived of those Advantages they now enjoy from making numerous Captures, & thereby possessing themselves of Tobacco sufficient for their purposes. —

Those Observations which are above confined to the Tobacco Trade will apply to every other kind of Commerce in a greater or lesser degree, & consequently those Articles which cannot now be exported, might then be brought to Market. At present, the Enemy by distressing the American Commerce derive two great Benefits to themselves. — They not only obtain considerable Resources but they are enabled to carry on a valuable Contraband Commerce. The History of human Affairs demonstrates the ~~inefficacy~~ efficacy of Penal Laws to prevent such a Commerce, when the Temptation is great, and therefore altho' the dispositions of the respective Legislatures cannot be questioned, yet so long as the Enemy can vend their Goods from New York, Charlestown and Halifax cheaper than the fair Trader can import them, that Contraband will subsist. The Commerce of America consists of bulky Articles. If the Vessels employed in it be armed, they will require a great Number of Seamen, if unarmed the Number of Seamen will be smaller, & the Surplus might be usefully employed in Ships of War.

(Tobacco)

Tobacco cannot be more important to the Commerce & Revenue of the Un.d States, their friends & allies, than Lumber, Iron and Provisions will be to the naval & military Operations. Wood for Masts Spars & Ship building, with every other Kind of naval Stores must be of consequence in Europe during such extensive & important Maritime Efforts. And it will also seem that the Securing Provisions in the Islands will greatly facilitate the Measures to be pursued in that quarter. The local Situation of the U.d S.s renders them of more importance than almost any other circumstance. To ameliorate the Effects of that Situation is a principal Object of the Enemy's Policy now that they have been compelled to abandon the Idea of Conquest. They are fully sensible of the Effects of that Situation. It is found by Experience in the last War, that the Islands in the West Indies are much dependant on the friendship or Enmity of America. They have considered the holding of Posts in the U.d S.s as a Kind of Outwork to their other Possessions. Their avowed design at present is to annihilate the American Commerce: and on the other hand, there can be but little doubt, that if Advantage is made of those circumstances, whose Effects they appretiend & guard against, the British Islands must fall, but the Importance of the American Commerce, great as it is, will appear still greater, when compared with the cheap and easy Means of affording it Protection. To judge of them it must be considered, — that the danger of Capture is always greatest near to the Ports. — When once a Fleet are at some considerable distance from the place of their departure, & before they arrive near to the place of their — destination, forty or fifty Sail might safely be entrusted to four frigates The large Fleets which are kept in the European & West India

(Seas)

Seas, obliges the Enemy to keep their naval force collected, so that the same Number of Frigates wo^d sufficiently protect a convoy in those seas, with that which wo^d secure them in the middle of the Ocean, unless under very peculiar circumstances of the service. But on the Coast of North America the case is different. By keeping one or two Ships of the Line with a Number of frigates on that Coast, the Enemy have a decided superiority. It is nevertheless conceived that the Commerce of America wo^d be well protected by so small a force as two Ships of the Line & ten frigates. For this purpose it wo^d be proper that two very fast Sailing Ships of the Line & two large fast sailing Frigates all sheathed with Copper, sho^d be stationed in the Chesapeak, & Cruize as occasion might require. If the Enemy had not a superior force, they wo^d be obliged to keep in port, and their Convoys wo^d be exposed to Misfortunes which might be even fatal to them. If they had a superior force, still they wo^d be obliged to keep that force collected, in which case they could do but little Injury to the Commerce. But when collected, it must either be in port or Cruizing. If in port, it wo^d answer no other purpose but to watch the Arrival of their own fleets. If it were Cruizing it might be crushed by a reasonable detachment made from the Islands for that purpose. These advantages follow necessarily from being on a friendly Coast because to the french Ships every Harbour wo^d be a protection, but the English have only one Harbour, (New York) which a Ship of the Line can enter. If the Enemy keep a naval Superiority in America it must be done at a very great disproportion of Expence, which is a clear Advantage to the Allies by distressing the finances of the common Enemy. If the four french Ships above mentioned were very fast Sailing Vessels (which is a necessary part of the plan) they could always avoid danger on one hand, & on the other might do

(very)

very serious Injury to the Enemy. The remaining eight Frigates
shod be divided into two small Squadrons of four each. The
first Squadron shod sail from Brest and make a short stay at
L'Orient, from thence proceed with the American Trade to Bantz
take the Trade there, & proceed to the Chesapeake. Upon their
Arrival, they (as soon as the Ships stationed in the Bay) shod obey the
Orders of the Minister of France, because he wod always be possessed
of proper Intelligence as to the Enemy's Situation, & be informed of the
peculiar circumstances which the varying State of Things might give
rise to, & which must influence every plan in a greater or lesser
degree. The second Squadron shod leave Brest about three Months
after the first & pursue the same Rout. The Trade having arrived
off the Chesapeak, the Convoy might (generally speaking) go from
thence to the Mouth of Delaware, and thence to Boston, when the
Southern States are repossessed, the same Rout might be pursued &
the Trade of those States detached when near to the Coast, under one
which cod go with it & from thence to the Chesapeak, the place of such Frigates
or two Frigates, being supplied in the mean time (if necessary) by those
in the Chesapeake. The Trade bound from the Middle & Southern
Parts of America for Europe might be convoyed by the whole force to
Boston Bay and being there joined according to Arrangements previous-
-ly taken for that purpose, by the Trade of the eastern States, might
be convoyed off the Coast, & then entrusted to four Frigates as before
bound for Nantz, & thence to L'Orient, after which the Frigates
might return to Brest. The whole Voyage wod certainly be completed
in five Months at the farthest, & consequently the two Squadrons wod
give a quarterly protection to the Trade, which wod be sufficient.
It is to be hoped, that if the War continues much longer the Un. States
will be able to provide the necessary Force for themselves, which

(at-)

At present they are not, tho' if the above Arrangement take place they might even now provide for the Trade from America to the West Indies. —

It has above been mentioned that, under particular circumstances, detachments sho.d be made from the W.t Indias — The Situation of things at present will shew the importance of that measure. If two Ships of the Line & two frigates sho.d now arrive on the Coast, they wo.d clear it of all Enemies, & probably take many Ships, which might immediately be manned by exchanging the Crews for American Seamen in Captivity. They wo.d thereby become an instant reinforcement to the Party by which they were taken — It has also been mentioned, that the Provisions of America wo.d form an useful Support to the military Operations in the Islands. An acquaintance with such Operations renders this position too clear to admit the shadow of doubt. If things were placed on the footing above described, Provisions co.d be delivered to the Islands much cheaper & better than they can be drawn from Europe, saving thereby much Expence & much Fatigue. But this is not all. Provisions & naval Stores for the use of the King, might always be prepared in Season, & laden ready to be convoyed back to the Islands by the same forces sent from thence to effect the Purposes of a temporary Superiority on the American Coast, so that the same means wo.d apply to protecting Commerce, and to promoting the Success of military enterprizes. &c.)

Estimates formed upon the present State of the Tobacco Trade, and what it would be if properly convoyed and protected. —

Estimate No. 1. —

		Dollars
A Vessel on the present Construction to carry 120 Hhds Tobacco will cost —		10,000
120 Hogsheads of Tobacco — — — —	at 30 Doll.rs each	3,600
		21,600
This Tobacco sold in France may be supposed to net 600 ℔ ₰ Hhd. — — — — — — — —		72,000
Port Charges, Master — — —		3,600
Mate — — — — —		960
petty officers 3 at 480 each — —		1,440
Crew — — 30 at 240 each — — —		7,200
Expences of the Vessel — — —		10,000
		23,200
		48,800

The Vessel arriving safe, every Livre which had been invested in Goods would sell for 36/90ths of a Dollr. wherefore 48,000 ℔ at 36/90ths of a Dollar each are — — — — — 19,520

From this deduct as follows

Prime Cost of Tobacco as above — — —	3,600
To insure 21,600 at 40 ₰ Ct. which is the lowest Insurance on the whole Voyage out & home so as to cover Insurance & Charges, you must insure on 37,565 5/23 at 40 ₰ Ct. — — — — — — — — —	15,026 2/23
Insurance at 40 ₰ Ct. supposes two Vessels out of five to be taken, wherefore to the original Cost of 21,600 add 2/5ths or 8,640, total 30,240, on which take 6 Mos. Int.t at 6 ₰ Ct. — — — — — — — — —	907
	19,533 1/23

The Loss on this Voyage, over & above the Labor of the Merchr. is therefore 13 Dollrs. and the Commerce is only supported by the freight of Goods from France. — Many Merchts are not concern'd in Ships, but buy Bills of Exchange which they remit, & order Goods to be purchased & laden in the Ships of others, which Goods pay cons.ble freight

Proof of Calculation on Insurance

From — — — — — — — —	37,565 5/23	
deduct 2 1/2 ₰ Ct. incl.g Brokerage	939 3/23	
	36,626 2/23	
deduct 40 ₰ Ct. Premium on 37,565 5/23 as above — — — — — — — —	15,026 2/23	
	21,600.	

Estimate No. 2.)

	Dollars	
A large Merch.t Vessel to carry 300 Hhds will cost	12.000	
800 Hhds of Tobacco ------ at 40 Dollars --	12,000	24,000
Suppose this Tobacco sold in France at 300 ℔ Hhd		90,000
Port Charges, Master ------	1,800	
Mate ------	480	
Petty Officers 3 at 240 --	720	
Crew 10 - at 120 each —	1,200	
Expences of the Vessel --	8,000	12,200
		77,800

The Vessel arriving safe, every Livre which has been invested in Goods, will sell for 24/90.ths of a dollar, wherefore 77,800 at 24/90.ths of a Dollar ℔ Livre are — 20,746

From this deduct as follows —

Prime cost of Tobacco as above — ----	12,000
To insure 24,000 Doll.s at 15 ℔ Ct. so as to cover Insurance & Charges, you must insure on 29,090 10/11 which at 15 ℔ Ct. is — ----------	4,338 7/11
Insurance being at 15 ℔ Ct. supposes 3 out of 20 taken, wherefore to original advance 24,000 add 3/20 - 3,600. Total 27,600, on which take 6 Mo Interest - at 6 ℔ Ct.s — ----------	828
	17,166 7/11
	2,579 4/11

The profit of this Voyage is therefore above 10 ℔ Ct.

Proof of Calculation on Insurance

From — ----------	29,090 10/11
deduct 2 1/2 ℔ Ct. including Brokerage --	727 3/11
	28,363 7/11
Deduct 15 ℔ Ct. premium on 29,090 10/11 as above — ----------	4,363 7/11
Remains the Original Sum of — —	24,000

(Observations)

Observations on the Estimates.

In the first Estimate the Cost of the Vessel in proportion to her burthen is great, because of her being built for Sailing & encumbered with Guns, Ammunition & the Provisions & Water for a Number of Men. but further such a Vessel costs more now than formerly, because many of the Articles are brought from abroad, & because the Number of Vessels required for the Commerce & by reason of the Captures has enhanced the Value of that Manufacture.

In the first Estimate the Port Charges as to the Master & Hands are double to what they are in the second, because the Risque of Capture is now so great that very extraordinary Encouragement must be given to prevail on Men to expose themselves to it.

In the first Estimate the Expences of the Vessel in Port are in a very large proportion greater than in the second, because of the greater Number of Men to be subsisted, Ammunition to be bought &c.

From comparing these Estimates we find

That by the first 40 Hhds of Tobacco are sold by the American planter for 1200 Dollrs & for 1,200 ℔ gets Goods which cost — 3,000 ℔

That by the second 40 Hhds of Tobacco are sold by the American planter for 1,100 Dollrs and for 1,100 ℔ gets Goods wch cost — 6,000

Difference 1/2 — 3,000

That by the first the Frenchman for 3,000 ℔ gets of Tobacco at 600 ℔ — Hhds 5.

That by the second the frenchman for 3000 gets of Tobacco at 300 ℔ — 10

Difference 1/2 : — 5.

Thus the Consumer in each Country gets for the same Quantity of his Produce double the Quantity of the Produce of the other Country, and yet as — Profit is left to the Merchant

In the first Case 30 Seamen are necessary to 120 Hhds Tobacco — Hhds 4. to 1 Man

In the second Case 10 Seamen are necessary to 300 Hhds Tobacco — 30 to 1.

Richmond May 16th 1782

I am extremely oblig'd to you, my dear Sir, for y.r favor of the — together with the letter enclosd, which you were so good as to forward. It seems to me that the Party in G. Britain who flatter themselves, at this period of the contest, with being able to coincide ate us; are still more weak than that which hoped to reduce us by force. To suppose we can dishonorably abandon Allies who have assisted us, for Enemies who have endeavord to destroy us, merely because those endeavors have been frustrated, to suppose we should adopt a character of the extremest folly & perfidy; when we can with more security adhere to honorable engagements, & enjoy a reputable name; is worthy of those only, who in the whole of this business, seem to have been acting under an immediate visitation from Heaven to their shame & ruin.

This is the third day that we have had a House. Mr. Tyler is again our Speaker. A

committee is appointed to prepare Instructions for us. And when the appropriation of the taxes comes on care will be taken to provide for the support of the Delegation. I am inclined to think that the ships sent here by Mr. Morris for Tobacco for the N. York merchants, will be returned empty; the Honble Delegates not seeming disposed to suffer any such practice. We are exceedingly embarrassed about raising hard money for recruiting & other necessary purposes of Government. Not a shilling can be borrowed & tho' the taxes are consistent & indispensable as the taxes are they are constantly in arrear & of a depreciating value, there is little money in the State, & as little prospect of more coming in. That article in the capitulation which allowed the British merchants to sell their goods at York, was so speedily & effectual a drain from us of Specie, as to throw an insurmountable bar in the way of all operations depending upon this.

I shall be very much obliged to you for a continuation of your correspondence, & particularly for what is received from our ministers in Europe.

May I take the liberty of requesting you to

receive the Contents of the enclosed Bill, & keep it subject to my order. I beg leave to make my Compts to the Ladies & Gentlemen of your House.

Farewell. R. Lee

The Hon'ble
James Madison

The Honble

James Madison Esqr.

in Congress

Philadelphia

Virginia to wit.

In the House of Delegates

Monday the 20th. of May 1782.

Resolved, that allowing British Traders, Capitulants at York, to export Tobacco to the amount of Monies received for their Goods, is not warranted by the Capitulation.

Resolved, that permitting the Enemy by themselves or an Agent to purchase Tobacco in this State and export the same is inconsistent with the policy of that Act of Congress which recommends the passing of Laws for confiscating British Manufactures found on Land within the United States; And that such permission is moreover contrary to the Laws of this Commonwealth which forbid trading with the Enemy.

Resolved, that either directly or indirectly to authorize Trade with the common Enemy is inconsistent with the good faith due to our Ally, and may be the cause of just complaint on the part of France; it being expressly stipulated by the 16th. Article of the Treaty of Commerce between His Most Christian Majesty and the thirteen United States "That "whatever shall be found laden by the Subjects and "Inhabitants of either party, on any Ship belonging to the "Enemies of the other, or to their subjects, may be confiscated "in the same manner as if it belonged to the Enemy.

Resolved therefore that as the Capitulation does not Warrant the Enemy to export Tobacco for Monies obtained

by

by the Sale of Goods and such Exportation would be contra-
-vening the regulations of the United States (and contrary
to the Laws of this Commonwealth — That the Vessels now
arrived in this State from New York under an Agreement
made between the Secretary of Congress, the Superintendant
of the Finances of the United States, (and Ebenezer Coffin, ought
not to be permitted to Load in this Commonwealth.

RESOLVED that nothing contained in these Resolutions
shall be construed to prevent the Execution of a Contract
entered into by the Agent of this State with the Assent of
His Excellency General Washington (under the Capitulation
with the Late Civil Capitulants at York for the amount of
Tobacco due for Goods received for the use of the Army.

Teste John Beckley C. H. D

A Copy John Beckley C. H. D.

Resolves of House of Delegates of Va. in 1782.—

Trade with the Enemy, after the Capitulation at York.

By

The United States in Congress Assembled

May 24th. 1782

The Superintendant of Finance having in a letter of this day enclosed the copy of a letter of the 4th. March from the Honorable Doctor Franklin Minister Plenipotentiary of these United States at the Court of Versailles and a copy of a letter of the 6th. February from the Count de Vergennes to Doctor Franklin together with a state of the public monies, from which he says "Congress will perceive that every sous we can command during the year 1782 already anticipated — that the pecuniary supplies of 1781 and 1782 amount after deducting the expences on the loans to twenty five and a half millions of livres, and that there are including the two million two hundred thousand livres appropriated to the interest of loan Office certificates near ten millions besides the sum expended in Holland which have already passed and are now passing through the hands of Doctr. Franklin and of which not a livre has been or ever will be applied to the current service, if to this be added above two millions and a half due on Beaumarchais bills we shall have an amount of about twelve and an half millions being at least one half of all the monies obtained

abroad

abroad for the service of the years 1781 & 1782 and we shall find that this greater half is totally consumed in paying the principal of some and the interest of other debts which have been contracted before that period." — And the copy of the letter of the 6th. February 1782 from the Count de Vergennes to Doct.r. Franklin being read to which is annexed the following "Sketch of the account of Congress with the Royal Treasury

1781. Receipts

The King has advanced —	4.000.000	
Gratuitous subsidy —	6.000.000	
Loan in Holland —	10.000.000	20.000.000

Application

N.B. Those for Virginia are not included.

Remitted to M.r. Franklin at different times by the Depart.t of foreign Affairs. —	4.000.000	
Furnished in cash to Col. Laurens.	2.500.000	
Price of goods sent in May & June.	2.069.109	
Price of goods intended to be sent in March 1782 —	2.570.000	
Bills of M.r Morris on Mess.rs le Coutleux —	1.000.000	
Money sent to Holland and remitted to M.r. Franklin	1.430.000	
To M.r le Grand for account of M.r. Franklin. —	2.216.000	15.785.109
Ballance —		4.214.891

N.B.

N.B. There remains to be taken from that sum

1st " The price of goods bought for the State of Virginia. —

2nd " The charges on the loan in Holland. —

M. Franklin must provide for the bills drawn by M. Morris on M. le Coulteux." —

The letter of 4th " March from M. Franklin to the Superintendant of Finance being also read, wherein is the following paragraph & posteript. —

" Friday last the Minister was so good as to inform me we should have six millions paid quarterly of which 1.500.000 would be ready for us at the end of this month. I hope I shall now be able to face the loan Office and other bills and my acceptances in favor of M. Beaumarchais and I will do as much as I can out of the 6.000.000 towards fulfilling your orders of paying & depositing money in other hands: but when you observe that the dutch loan which you conceived might be entire with me and at your disposition has suffered such large deductions you will not expect much and your hopes of twelve millions for the present year falling short by one half as far as appears at present, you will arrange your affairs accordingly & prevail on our people if possible to do more for themselves." —

P.S. By the 15th " of this month another Million of the Dutch loan will be consumed in paying bills &ca " so that I fear it will be difficult for me to pay those in favor of Mr. Ross but I will try." —

The

The Superintendants account of the monies in France being
aforead as follows –

Due on the dutch loan according to the sketch given by the Count de Vergennes	4.214.891	
To be advanced in quarterly pay=ments during the year 1782	6.000.000	10.214.891

Deductions –

1st. So much payable by Doctr. Franklin the 15th March 1782	1.000.000	
2d. Expences of negociating the loan in Holland estimated at	500.000	
3d. Amount of articles furnished to Virginia estimated at	700.000	
4. Bills drawn on le Coulteux & Co. last year mentioned in the Counts letter	200.000	
5. Amount of Interest Bills	2.200.000	
6. Amount of orders in favor of Messrs. Bingham & Koss in december last being for a part of their advances	300.000	
7. Amount of Cloathing purchased by me last Autumn from necessity the payments for which are now falling due.	700.000	
8. Monies due to Mr. W. Lee which I directed M. Franklin to pay with the interest, say about.	45.000	

/ 9th

9. Amount of bills drawn by me on M. Grand since the 1st. January last.		1.085.000
10. Bills drawn by Congress in favor of M. de Beaumarchais three years ago and which are payable 22d. June next.		2.544.000
11. Expences of Foreign Ministers & Contingencies		400.000
12. Expences of negociating at 1/2 per cent	60.000	9.734.000
	Remains	480.891

The expences of hiring Transports, maintaining prisoners &c. "will more than consume that ballance". —

Ordered, That the Superintendant of Finance lay before Congress an account of all money borrowed or granted in Europe by or to the United States antecedent to the 1st. day of March last and also a general state of the purposes to which the same has been applied. —

Extract from the Minutes.

Th. Bond depy Sec.

Dear Sir

Phila.a May 1782

The Letter inclosed herewith came to my hands from the Eastern post. I forward it not knowing how far its contents may interest you.

The parliamentary intelligence published in the Gazette of this morning shews that [redacted] some revolution in the Legislative Councils of the Legislative branch has taken place, which will probably have some effect on those of the Executive. But as the delusive idea of a [redacted] federal if not a political connection with this Country founded on the ruins of its connection with France, still governs their policy, no conclusion whatever can be drawn from it that will justify the smallest relaxation in our public measures. The efficacy of conciliatory overtures seems to be as foolishly & obstinately persisted in by one party as that of Military coercion has been by the other; and if the former should be indulged in their favorite experiment, it is more probable that their disappointment & vexation will make them converts to the views of the latter, than that both parties will lay aside their prejudices & embrace the terms we hold out to them

Mem.

A letter from Mr. Jay
were rec.d yesterday. They all
left Madrid the former
us. The success of the Spanish
we are told be followed by
Gibraltar.

We have several times
Reader on the Western Expedition
instance experienced a repetition
obstructions, of which you were
thing will explain but the
from the beginning imputed
consistent with the respect
characters nor with the dig-
persist longer in fruitless
for an answer. We shall
ships as well as we can
with a State of it for the
tainly be fully justified
refusal to their Western claims,
Resolve shall prescribe. Jan.

from Mr. Carmichael
the same language
little before you left
us the Minerva will
bold efforts against

spected our call for
and Lane in every
of the same indecent

sessions

re to which we have
em. It will neither be
e to our own public
of those we serve, to
cations to Congress
ne wind up the bu-
days, and trans-
mbly, who will ex-
y any communi-
ith the interests of
encroachments

Madison Jr

The Deposition of William Allen of lawful age being first sworn this 23d day of June 1782 Depo-
-seth & saith, That in the Month of June 1781 bein
at Frazers Ferry he saw Capt Lamue of the Brig
Cornwallis take a Large quantity of Shot of various
sizes & carry on board the said Brig, This Deponent
also saith that the said Lamue took eight Cannon
with their Carriages & three Howetz & put on board
the said Brig. with one Blunderbus & three Mus-
-kets - This Deponent farther saith that he un-
-derstood the Shot, Cannon & Howitz belonged to
the Country & that the said Lamue took them
on board to keep them out of the way of the
Enemy, but that he does not know they were
ever returned, all the Warlike Stores that could
be found this Deponent says were carried off
by the said Lamue - and farther this Deponent
saith not -

his
Wm W. Allen
mark

The above Deposition was taken & sworn to
before me -

Carter Braxton

(Copy) June 23d 1782

Dear Sir

Philad.a 25.th June 1782.

The bill which you lately inclosed to me was duly honored, and the contents of it are in my hands subject to any order which you may wish to give.

A private letter from Mr. Adams of the 11.th of April, informs his correspondent that Friesland Holland, Utrecht, Zealand & Overyssel had taken decided resolutions for a treaty with the U. States; and that like resolutions might be expected in a few days from the two remaining provinces. A Leyden paper of posterior date, says that six provinces had concurred in this measure. This revolution has been exceedingly stimulated by the ap- prehension which apprehended that if it was lost, they might be excluded from some of the commercial privileges

vileges which England may obtain. It is stated in a long memorial from the Merchants to the States General that the importance of the American trade was experienced by them very sensibly prior to the loss of St. Eustatius, as it has been throughout the war by France; that the Ordinance of Congress agt. British manufactures presents a precious season for substituting those of other nations, & that this season ought the rather to be improved as nothing will be so likely to open the ears of G. B. to the demands of the U. S. & to a general Peace, as the prospect of being supplanted in the commercial preference, which she expects from the ability of America.

The trade with the Enemy's lines, had increased to so great a degree that it was thought necessary for Congress to renew their exhortations to the States upon this subject, and to ~~[illegible]~~ suspend the people in aid of the public Resolutions will be laid before you this character. We also understand

cases intercourse with the Enemy is carried on under collusive captures preconcerted between Vessels from N. Y. & Vessels fitted out in the neighbouring ports. This abuse lies more within the powers of Congress and a remedy for it is now under consideration. If the Trade with N. Y. cannot be suppressed by some means or other it will very shortly steal from us the cash on hand money, and render our taxations abortive.

I am D.r Sir with much respect

Yr. Obt. Servt.

J. Madison Jr.

The heads of a letter
from Dr. Franklin
to the Superintendant
of Commerce & the Sec.y
for foreign affairs
date June 25.th 1782

"I will only say that
tho' the English a few months
since, seem'd desirous of
peace, I suspect they
now intend to draw
out the Negociations in
length, till they can see
what this campaign
will produce."

June 29.th "The enabling Act
is now said to be signed
but no copy of it is yet
receiv'd here, so that as
the Bill first printed has
suffer'd alterations in passing
thro' Parliament, & we know
not what they are, the treaty
is not yet commenced. Mr.
Grenville expects his Courier
in a few days, with the
answer of this Court to a
Paper given him on the
part of this. That answer
will probably afford us
a clearer understanding
of the intentions of the
british Ministry, which
for some weeks past
have appeard somewhat
equivocal & uncertain".

June 25.th They have after
several Messages sent
to & fro, come to a resolution
of treating with all together
for a general peace &
have agreed that the
place shall be Paris.
Mr. Grenville is now
here, with full powers
for that purpose, if they
can be reckon'd full
with regard to America
till a certain Act is com
pleated for enabling his
Majesty to treat, &c. which
has gone thro' the Com
mons & has been read
read in the Lords & is
a very particular

Journal of this day every day in the after which is transcribed to be sent you. I shall therefore need to say no more of it in this letter, except, that like I still think they are at first sincere in their desire of peace; yet since their success in the W. Indies I imagine that I see marks of their deserting rather to draw the negociations into length, that they may take the chance of what the rest of the campaign shall produce in their favor."

N. B. no Journal sent.

Communications from the french Minister contain the same expressions of the british negociator, but imputes them to the change in the Ministry mentions - that the British proposed the preamble of unconditional acknowledgment of the Independence of the U. S. & concluding a treaty conformable to the treaty of Paris - that the french Court would agree only to make the treaty of Paris, the basis of the one proposed reserving the power of new arrangements in Africa, the East Indies & the Newfoundland fishery - the British Court agreed to make the Treaty of Paris the Basis to negociate the new arrangements. France proposed that they should treat separately, but at the same time with the Commissioners of the U. S. This was agreed to & powers sent.

The King of France expects to add 20 mil of the livres to his finances this year - desires us to resolve not to make peace till all the Allies are satisfyd & that if the Enemy quit America, we will restore them to the W. Indies.

Extract of Mr Barlay's Letter
No 3 dated Amsterdam 29th June 1782

"Enclosed I have the honor to for-
ward you sundry papers relating to Mr Deane's
accounts with the United States, all of which
I received from himself at Ghent some time
ago.

No 1. contains an account of money advanced
to Prisoners amounting — L.t 1922 5 - 7 - 10d

2. An Acct of money paid for
Carmichael — 9200 -

3. Do of money advanced to Offi-
cers going to serve in America
& to those in the service of the County } 47899 - 12 - 6

4. Do of money paid for Express
Voitures &c — } 3107 - 4 - 6

5. Do of money paid Mr Chammont 2986 - 0 - 6

6. Do paid on Mr Deanes Journey
to Toulon — } 8036 - 5 - 3

7. Do Mr Deane's Acct current
with the U.S. ballance due him } 348114 - 12 - 4.

8. contains an Explanation of some obscure
entries in the Accounts

It would be very useless in me to say any thing about those Accounts — all the transactions having taken place long before my arrival in Europe, but if Congress incline to have the matter adjusted by two or three impartial men in France, to be indifferently chosen by Mr Deane & me I shall attend the settlement, & do every thing in my power — to have an honest one made, in this case it will be necessary that a Committee of Congress should examine Mr Deane's Accounts, and that I should have very particular Instructions how to proceed, for I do not think that the resolve of Congress passed the 12th of September 1781. sufficiently authorizes me to do any thing decisive on these Accounts especially as they appear of such Consequence — I cannot say the sentiments which Mr

Deane Expresses better before you than by
enclosing the Letter that he gave me
when he delivered me his Accounts

When I looked them over with
him at Ghent, it appeared that Mr
Beaumarchais had charged the United
States with 10 per cent upon all the
goods shipped under his direction, conse-
quently the whole of the commission on
that transaction amounts to 16 per Cent

From the resolution of Congress a [illegible]
to above, which was transmitted to
Mr Deane from America, he considers
himself as having a claim upon me to settle
his Accounts, & therefore you will oblige
me by procuring for me from Congress
decided & final Instructions

have been more sensibly seen and felt, than it is at present." -

[All this is evidently exaggeration & mistake, but it shows the façon de penser of a certain party of the day.]

Arthur Lee to F. Dana

Philad.a July 6th. 1782

"Our embarrassments for money are great; not that there is any real want of it, but because by the Constitution of a Bank, and until lately a most prosperous commerce, in this tory city, has accumulated all the money here, and consequently disenabled the other states from paying taxes to support the war. The residence of Congress in the bosom of toryism, and the encouragement given to them, is as impolitic as it is unjust. It puts such advantages into their hands, as in case the war should take a turn, may enable them to deliver us up tied and bound to the enemy. It is extreme political weakness to suppose, that because these men have changed their professions, that they have therefore abandoned their principles. These are what a tory never changes, and though he may make them bend occasionally to his interest,

yet whenever an opportunity offers, you will be sure to find him the same enemy to public liberty."

"I am sorry that the attempts you mention have in any measure succeeded; tho' they have failed of the whole intent, which was to put the negotiations of peace in corrupt & servile hands only. The wickedness of that old Man (Franklin) is beyond example; and his good fortune, in escaping the punishment due to his crimes, is as extraordinary."

"It may be proper to inform you, that the present Secretary for Foreign Affairs, (R. R. Livingston) is a decided partizan of Dr Franklin, and an enemy to Mr Adams. Like a number of other persons here, he praises the former by rote, and undertakes to tutor the other. Whatever you see or receive from him you may consider as dictated by the French Ministry. He made him what he is, and policy, or gratitude, keeps him from disobeying or renouncing his maker."

[The key to all this is, that Mr Lee was a rival to Mr Livingston for the office of Secty of For. Affrs, and failed after divers deep intrigues to carry his point. Hence his ill nature & abuse. — His unbridled servility against Dr. F. is of a piece with much else of this; — as may be seen in this volume above.]

(№ 384)

Westminster July 12th 1782.

Leicester Square № 15

Sir

I forwarded by Mr. Vaughn about the middle of the last week, a bundle of News Papers directed to your Excellency, by them and those which accompany this, you will be able to trace the politicks of a tottering Empire and the malice of a disappointed faction, levelled in daily paragraphs at Mr. Adams, who they are very anxious to draw forward in reply, but his good sense rises superior to their malevolence, and he has permitted them to pass unnoticed — being thus disappointed in the principal — they are endeavouring to induce the Secretary to take up the Gauntlet, supposing that the fire of youth and a natural impetuosity of temper will induce him to flash at their insolence — but it will not answer — the young Gentleman will carefully avoid their snare & plumeing himself hitherto upon a rectitude of Conduct and intention in the most trivial actions of his Life — fold his arms and laugh at their attempts to injure — but I must ask your Excellency's pardon for addressing you in so familiar a style and flatter myself I shall ~~have it confirmed~~ have it, as I have nothing serious to relate which concerns us — I ask your indulgence there is one thing — and as the reputation of our Country in a small degree

in

in the Circle of this Court and City, depends upon the appearance its representatives make ~~to~~ In serious, lengthy Language, I will assure your Excellency that the Salary of our Minister Plenipo=tentiary is by no Means equal to the Station in which his Country has placed him — however this is mere matter of opinion — as to his secretary experientia docet that he shall be obliged to grind the faces of the poor, and even then the Ends will not meet — I your Excellency will undoubtedly recollect the Ideas that prevailed when I left Newyork relative to my situation — It was supposed to be a matter of course that the Secty would Live with the Minister & consequently his expences would in a variety of respects be Lessened — the quantum sufficit on this principle was fixed — But Mr. Adams has his family with him (to the honour of our Country) and it would not only be inconvenient to both, but in my opinion improper — I am therefore provided with every thing seperately except the Office which is in Mr. Adams's House, and the politeness

I

of his family induces them to place a spare plate
& cover for me at their table, this proceeds from
their own civility & not from any right that
I had to expect this attention — I have wrote
to some of my friends in Congress on this subject
particularly Mr Read & King if the question should
ever be started — I am so perfectly convinced that
your Excellency will take the side of justice and
propriety that I shall not presume even to
state what my wishes are — but rest it
entirely upon the superior Judgement of
my friends —

I have the honour to be with
the most perfect respect

Your Excellency's
Most Obd.
Humble Servt.
W. L. Smith

His Excellency
R. H. Lee Esq.

W. S. Smith 1782.
Letter

The Committee to whom was referred the Resolution for examining Captain Barry Commander of the Frigate Alliance, touching the loss of the Ship La [illegible] to report as follows; that having called Captain Barry before them, he gave the Committee the following information

That on his arrival at L'Orient, in France about the 4th March 1781, having orders to take in any public stores, or convoy any Ship containing such stores for the United States he enquired of Mr. Moylan the agent there, whether there were any public goods for him to carry - and was answered that there were not, for that a Ship was Chartered by Mr. Williams for that purpose. Colonel Laurens and himself examined some bales of the Cloathing, and thought the Cloth good, but they did not unpack any of them so as to Judge of the Size of the Uniforms. He advised the Captain of the La Fayette to go immediately to Brest, and Sail with the Convoy then going from that port But instead of doing this, he lent his Seamen to other Ships and remained in port. He thinks the Captain shewed constantly a reluctance in preparing to Sail, and when he got him under his Convoy which was towards the last of March 1781, he appeared

appeared very unwilling to make sail. After having been about three weeks at Sea, in a gale of wind, and during a Squawl, which split the fore sail and fore top sail of the Alliance, so that she could not put before the wind, the La Fayette disappeared. when the Squawl commenced she was within haling distance of the Alliance.

Captain Robinson of South Carolina now in L'Orient who was then on board the La Fayette has informed Captain Barry by letter, that in the thickest of the Squawl the Captain of the La Fayette put his Ship before the Wind and sailed away, tho' he Captain Robinson remonstrated with him, that the Alliance could not steer that course, and that he must inevitably lose his convoy. This was directly contrary to his proper course.

Captain Barry says he gave the Captain of the La Fayette Signals both of Colours and guns, but he went off without making any Signal, so that tho' he cruised for him two days he could not fall in with him.

The La Fayette was an Indiaman exceedingly old, but sailed very well. She carried 26. 18 pounders on one deck and 12 or 14. 6 pounders on her fore castle and quarter deck with about 200 men.

Mr. Williams informed Captain Barry that he Chartered this Ship of Mr. de Chaumont at Doctor Franklins

Table

Table for Ten guineas per Ton measurement. That there was no Charter-party, but a Verbal agreement, that she should be ready by October 1780. The freight for about eleven hundred Tons measurement was paid by Mr. Williams in Bills on Doctor Franklin before the Captain Signed the Bills of Loading, which were to land the Cargo in any part of America. From a calculation made by Captain Barry with Mr. Williams the publick Stores shipped in the Lafayette amounted to about 150 Tons. He was informed by Mr. Williams and Mr. Moylan that what was Shipped on the publick account was - 100 Tons of Saltpetre - 26 Iron 18 pounders - 15,000 old gun Barrels some Sole and Harness Leather - Uniforms for 10.000 men and Cloth for 5 or 6000. — Yet the Ship appeared to be very deeply laden. —

Upon this your Committee agreed to Report the following Resolution.

Resolved That the Secretary be directed to transmit a Copy of this Report to Captain Barry to be compared with the Log-book of the Alliance - corrected if there should be any mistakes - Signed and Sworn to by him, and returned to Congress, together with Captain Robinsons Letter, referred to in his information. ——

a true copy from the original report, filed in the Office of the Secy of Congress —

attest — Ch. Thomson Secy. pro. tem.

Report of Committee
on Capt. Barry's information
Mr Lee
Mr Ramsay
Mr Lovell -
Acted on July 15th 1782 -

The Honourable Arthur Lee Esqr

Philadelphia

Nantes 17 July 1782

Sir (Quadruplicate)

We are this moment honoured with Your Esteemed favor of the 8 April inclosing resolve of congress ordering Mr Johnson to revise our Accounts, we have presented it to him & he refuses complying to it, saying that he is not properly authorised having Delined the place of auditor in France, thus we will remain in advance till Congress orders some body else to examine them, we think it hard that they need this formality which is only used towards those whose Caracter is Suspected — the Reputation of our worthy Parent has enjoyed to the last, renders this Act a frivolous pretence of Doctor franklin to keep us out of our Money — We Sent this Evenings post your bills together of Seven hundred & twenty livres or one hundred & forty four Dollars to Paris for aucptance & will place the same to your Credit, we have received said Bills by your

letter of the 10 March

We request dear Sir you would please to represent our affair to Your friends in Congress that we may at last get our Advances reimbursed —

Penet is at last turned a bankrupt he has left Nantes abruptly & all his moveable have been Sold last Week he has left no books or papers that can testify his circumstances his creditors dayly send in their account which amount to near 600,000 the greatest part of which has been lavished in luxury & pleasure.

We have the honor to be

Sir!

Your most Hble & Obt Servants

Schweighausen & Dobree

2d S

We are now to the 12 augst & without any answer from Doctor Franklin relative to what we have wrote him on Mr Johnson's Refusal of examining our amounts requesting at the Same time he would appoint Some body to do it. We have wrote him ocasionaly for these 18 months, past without receiving any letter from him the Hon. Mr Laurens is actually here & will Stay a few months Letters from Paris mention that an English Negociator / Mr Fitzherbert / has been well received that he Suscribes to the Independance of america in its fullest Extent and that the only point actually in contest is the East Indias Settlements which the Court of France insists must be in common to all Nations the Emperor is doubtless much of this opinion

25 Sep:— M Laurens is returned to London to embark in a Cartel for america.— We have spoke to him relative to the Alliance & he has advised us to present our account to passy with the Vouchers & get Dr F's refusal certified by a Notary public — & to send him this certificate with a representation of this affair & that he would represent our case to Congress & was persuaded we would soon get our due

Richmond July 18. 1782.

Dear Sir

Your favor of July 2d. disappointed me much, in not containing the result of a conference with Colo. Mason. I expected the first movement from him, as being the first in nomination. Mr. Jefferson's domestic happiness is threatened with too great an interruption by the illness of his wife, to suffer him to enter into the researches, which our subject requires. In this situation no division can be expected of the work for some time: and this view of the matter has determined me to pursue the inquiry at large, in order to submit my rough hints to the correction and amendment of the committee.

Should I be unfortunate, as not to hear from Colo. Mason on this weighty business, notwithstanding your request to him to communicate with me, I shall certainly write to him, urge him to assist his country, and thro' me correspond with Mr. Jefferson and Dr. Walker.

In the mean time I know not, how to distribute the labour, so as to consign to your pen any particular portion of it. Perhaps, however, your present situation will oblige you to confine yourself to strictures on the claims of the companies; since you have access to their documents, but want the others. I take the liberty of suggesting this to you; it being a task, which must be executed, and is fully in your power, from the archives of congress, and the papers of Colo. Lee being open to you.

I should have answered your late favor by the last post, had not my engagements in the court of admiralty occasioned my absence from home.

I have the honor to be
with great esteem
Dear Sir, y[r]. mo. ob. Serv:

Edmund Randolph.

I hope you have explained, as you promised, the little misunderstanding between Mr. Izard and myself.

Edmund Randolph
July 18th 1782

Edmund Randolph

1230
160
1070
60.
1130

Dear Sir

Jamaica Plain July 26. 1782

I have been fearful of writing by the post, lest disagreeable accidents should intervene between Boston & Philadelphia. A private opportunity, by a trusty gentleman offering, I embrace it to answer your obliging favour of April. Thanks for your kind offer to engagements, but not for parting with any rights in complaisance to the greatest powers on earth. Attempts to trick us out of the fishery will prove injurious to those that make them. Methods have been already taken to impress B with the idea, that our enjoyment of it will be to their advantage & they will not fail of seeing it; & we have a truely sensible friend in Jonathan who will exert himself to the utmost for securing this blessing. I am jealous that unless Vermont is taken into the Union Bo will be benefited & that U.S. be prejudiced; but unless liberty & property can be secured Independency is not worth enjoying. Rather let us have an estate without a title, than a title to an estate. I have my fears at times, lest in these days of trial we should lose in principles that will in the end enslave Americans when peace has taken place; & am no more willing to submit to an Un than a Br tyranny. It is not the person, or the number, but the practice that makes the power oppressive & without a speedy & effectual opposition genuine liberty will not live & flourish so long upon this Continent as it hath done in the land of the sepulchres of our forefathers. The our army is better fed & clothed than formerly, & more disciplined, yet their numbers are too few, & the troops too raw; & I have therefore accounted it a happiness that thro' a change of politics in Br the enemy are not enabled to act offensively. I may be out in judgment, but think they have begun their naval plan too late & after being too much exhausted, & that the acquisition of the Dutch will be more than equivalent for all the successes of Rodney. I am not without hopes that a general pacification will be put forward the next winter. The embarrassments which the individual states as well as the united are under make a speedy & honourable peace very desirable. May that be the gift of Heaven & had not the promotion of Gen Knox prevented the army would have been of a good officer. Lincoln is indeed a man of sterling worth, I have been acquainted with him. He fills the places of trust whereto he was called in state, with fidelity diligence & credit; & is in high esteem & reputation as an inhabitant.

The paper you enclosed upon the subject of Deas, I remember not to have read when you sent it; & is now in careful preservation. Shall be much obliged to you for the copies alluded to. I wish there may not be now in Congress persons whose hearts are set upon plunder; & who are therefore desirous of being trusted with moneys to be employed ad libitum & without being accounted for. Col Deas & family are in good health, but have resided in Boston above a year. The Governour is become one of my parishioners, but not an inhabitant of the house the Col occupied, which Gordon joins in respects. Pray let me hear from you, & be furnished with valuable documents when a safe conveyance offers. I remain with real esteem

Your sincere friend William Gordon

Brussels July 29th 1782.

My Dear Sir

I send inclosed herewith two Acts of British Legislature, which are of no consequence to the United States, but as they evidently shew that the disposition of our Enemy is as pitifully mean & as Invidious as ever. The Act to prevent any future Office to be executed &c. is the offspring of Lord Shelburne, & as such was opposed by Sir George Saville, who seemed to be better informed of his Lordships Engagements with the King than Mr Fox. who however is since enlightned in that Subject. —

I cannot think that Lord Shelburne can continue in place, there is certainly a general distrust of him. & whatever he may think of himself He has not one Quality of the great Chatham.

The English affairs in India are in the utmost Confusion, in consequence of which the Stocks fall. The Irish are by no means satisfyd with what has

been lately done by the British Portion.
They see the right & Power on the wane
of renewing the antient Bondage.

You have heard much of the
[illegible] of late. I never could see in that
man, as evidently shewn his Inclination was.
Sincerely, it was astonishing to me that they
were suffered to remain in Paris, if the English
Ministry is disposed to think of Peace. It must then
be with more candour than he is thought capable of.
The Dutch are daily tearing themselves
to enable the State to act with Vigor but the
Statholder governs as usual, & the Nation is
disgraced & ruined. — I Hope the treaty lately
made with the United States will induce the
Court of Spain to acknowledge openly the Independancy
of America. I am convinced that the backwardness
of Madrid on this point, has greatly encouraged
the English Ministry in his Obstinacy.

Mr Lowrens staid a week here

i return from England, in order to reestablish
with. He has resolved to [illegible] in a public
line, & is preparing to return to America.

I know not what progress Mr Dana
have made at the Court of Petersburgh, but
I fear that British Gold has made a great im-
— however there is so much disorder in the Russian
government at present, that it cannot I think do
us much Harm.

I beg you would make my best Respects
to Mrs Read.

Dear Sir
Your most Obed.
Wm. Jennings

To Stothert Esq.

			Recruits
Hamp.		697	
Massach.	4326		
R. Island	1407		
Connecticut	2954		
N. York	1337		
N. Jersey	858		
Pensylv.	1592		500
Delaware	307		60
Maryland	1604		250
Virginia	949		300
N. Carolina	1003		
S. Carolina			50
Georgia			200

1. Augt. — 22. Septr

Dear Sir. (№ 355) Clews 29 July, 1782

I am sorry to be obliged to confirm now what I have said to you in several letters within 3 months past, viz, that there is no prospect of Peace for this year. Since the death of L.d Rockingham, L.d Shelburne is made Treasurer & Responsible Premier with an administration of his own composing, on the express convention with the King to continue the War & refusing to acknowledge the Independence of Am.a — an Interior Cabinet is already formed as in the reign of L.d North, where all schemes are first formed before they are carried to the Cabinet Council to be confirmed.

Gen.l Arnold is again openly at Court, high in the K.s favor, & frequently closeted with L.d Shelburne. These are facts the Truth of which you may rely on & make known, where you think they are most necessary to be known; as from them you will see as clearly as me that the War in Am.a will be renewed again, unless you take advantage of the Enemies present weakness & strike them another blow. The time when & the manner how this War will be renewed perhaps is not yet determined on, but from Arnold being again in high favor, I suppose that he has received the plan he had adopted last winter, of sending Gen.l Frazer, (who is since dead) as Com.d in Chief & Arnold as second, to burn & lay waste every part of Am.a that they could come at. M.r W.m Pitt only 22 years old, is Chan.r of the Exchequer, L.d Grantham Sec.y in the place of L.d Shelburne — Tommy Townshend Sec.y in the room of M.r Fox & L.d Keppel quite the Admir.y, as soon as they can get any body to fill his Post; it is to be offered to L.d Howe as soon as he returns from his present cruize in the Channel. Col. Barré is Paymaster of the Forces, & the Treasurership of the Navy has been offered to the L.d Advocate of Scotland, (comonly call'd L.d Starvation) who is just arrived in London to advise with the old Scotch Junto before he accepts it. —

On the whole it is thought, that England never had so feeble an inform'd in business & unconnected an Administration as this of L.d Shelburne will be; A breath from the K.s nostril will dissolve the whole in a moment; it seems as if the Nation were beholding their dissolution

dissolution with great Complacency. Nothing but absolute incapacity to procure Men & Money will prevent the Enemy from carrying into execution next year the scheme the H. & L.d S.t have plotted to carry desolation thro' Am.a, therefore I hope advantage will be taken of their feebleness this year. I really do not see how it will be possible for L.d G. to procure money — 60 or 70 men, 5000 from the Irish establishment, 5 or 6000 British & Irish recruits & Drafts from the British regulars & guards, and ab.t 2 or 3000 German recruits will be all the force they will be able to get to replace their losses this year & to carry on their operations next year in the W.t Indias & Am.a — It seems agreed on all sides that Gibraltar must fall this year. The Dutch fleet are out cruising on their own coast, but without appearing to design any more mischief to the Enemy's trade than they did last year, that the English have not a single ship of the Line in the N.t Sea; for every one they have at home they can have got ready are sent to Joyn L.d Howe who is cruising with 22 Sail on the coast of Ireland to meet & protect a large fleet from Jamaica that is expected every day. The Combin'd fleet of 27 Spanish & 13 French Sail of the Line & ab.t 25 Frigates under Don Cordova have been taking their summers amusement in cruizing for ab.t 3 Weeks between Scilly & the Lizard, without taking a single vessel there, tho' L.d Howe passed by them having remained in their sight for two Days, & single ships were going frequently to joyn L.d Howe on the coast of Ireland. Don Cordova it is said has now gone back to Cadiz. A large & valuable french Fleet from St. Domingo is arrived safe. It is reported that Spain has at length determin'd to acknowledge the Independence of Am.a — Last Spring Russia whose object is to have the War continue as long as possible, to keep the Parties nearly equal threatened the Dutch, if they did not make a seperate Peace w.th G.t B. — The Dutch however refused, since the Disaster of the 12.th of Ap.l in the W.t Indias was known, Russia has been quiet, for the English have revived their old Ideas, talk of nothing less than totally annihilating the Navies of France & Spain. The English Papers tell us that Sir Jn.o Jay since his arrival in London, has had frequent & long conferences with L.d Shelburne & that he is authorized by Congress to settle the terms of reconciliation between G.t B. & Am.a

The English affairs in the East Indias are again on the decline which has made the E.I. Stock fall 15 p.r C.t & is still falling. At the beginning of the War it was 282 p.r C.t Stock, yet it is now only 127. Irish, you may get this Letter which goes from Flanders to the Chesapeak, as it contains a full & concise state of Public Affairs in Europe. Mr.r Greenville who was sometime in Paris under the pretext of negotiating a Gen.l Peace, has been returned to London ab.t a fortnight, & now as Secretary to his Elder Br.r L.d Temple (who has been created Duke of Buckingham & have L.d Buckingham's blew

Ribband & succeeded the Duke of P[illegible]
where things are far from being
you & yours hea[illegible]

Wm Lee to R. H. Lee

July 29th 1782.

(No 385) Copy entire

No ~~XX~~ 249

1782

To

Richard Henry Lee Esqr

at Chantilly Westmoreland County

Potomack River

Virginia

Bordeaux 1 Aug 1782

Sir

A Vessel going from hence direct to Philadelp.a I have ordered three Cases Claret to be marked for you and have wrote Messrs. Meredith & Clymer to whom the Vessel you consigned to deliver them to your order amount Cost and charges Three hundred ten Livres tenDeb which you may if agreable with them Gentlemen

M. Jay in consequence of overtures from England is at Paris with the other Commissioners. I do not find that any definitive treaty is concluded with Madrid the Minister wave under various pretences but that Court being tedious in her movements the Delay possibly may rise from Official vexation only, it is of little Consequence they Aid with their Money & protection form part of the Grand Confederacy and employs great part of the British arms, they dread our intercourse with their Colonies

M. W. L. is always at B.x les his health is far from being in a good State M.r Jauvenel who past thro this City a few days past saw him lately as he went thro that City

with sincere Attachment I am

Sir your most Obedient

Humble Servant

John Bondfield

Arthur Lee Esq Philadelphia

To John Barnsfield

3 Cases Medoc. 30 bottles each is 90 bottles 336 - - 162 -

freight paid . . . @ 18 ℔ Case - - - - - - - - - 54 -

Remains on £315. 30 ℔ 6 - - - - - - - - - 94.10

310.10

5 | 310 | 62
30 |
10

90
4

6 | 360 | 60

(Copy)

An attested Copy of what I related to the Committee of Congress in Philadelphia.

That on my arrival at L'Orient in France about the 7th of March 1781, having orders to take in any public Stores or convey any Ships containing such Stores for the United States, I enquired of Mr. Noylan the agent there whether there were any public goods for me to carry - and was Answered there was not, for that a Ship was chartered by Mr. Williams for that purpose - Colo. Laurens and myself examined some bales of the Cloathing and thought the Cloths good - but did not unpack any of them so as to Judge of the size of the Uniforms - I advised the Captain of the La Fayette to go immediately to Brest, and sail with the Convoy then going from that port, but instead of doing this he sent his Seamen to other Ships and remained in Port - I thought the Captain shewed constantly a Reluctance in preparing to Sail - and when I got him under my Convoy which was towards the last of March 1781 he appeared very unwilling to make Sail. - After having been about three weeks at sea in a gale of wind and during a Squall which split the Fore sail and Fore topmast Stay Sail of the Alliance, so that she could not put before the Wind the La Fayette disappeared

-ed. When the Squall commenced she was within hailing dis-
-tance of the Alliance ——

Captain Roberson of South Carolina whowas ther on
board the La Fayette has informed me by letter that in the
thickest of the Squall the Captain of the La Fayette put
his Ship before the wind and sailed away - thó he Capt
Roberson remonstrated with him that the Alliance could not
Steer that course, and that he must inevitably loose his Con-
-voy - this was directly contrary to his proper course - I
gave the Captain of the La Fayette Signals both of Colours and
Guns, but he went off without making any Signal - so that thó
I cruised for him two days I could not fall in with him - -

The La Fayette was an Indiman exceedingly old, but
Sailes very well, She carried Twenty six Eighteen pounders
on one deck and Twelve or Fourteen Sixpounders on her Fore-
-Castle and Quarter Deck with about Two hundred men. —

Mr Williams informed me that he Chartered this Ship of
Mr de Chaumont at Doctor Franklins Table for Ten
Guineas per Ton measurement, that there was no Charter
party but a Verbal agreement - that she should be ready by
October 1780 - The freight for about Eleven hundred Tons mea-
-surement was paid by Mr Williams in Bills on Doctor
Franklin before the Captain signed the Bills of Loading

which

which were to land the Cargo in any part of America. From a Calculation made by Mr Williams and myself the public Stores Shipped in the La Fayette amounted to about Four hundred and fifty Tons — I was informed by Mr Williams and Mr Moylan that what was shipped on the public account was one hundred Tons of Salt petre, Twenty six Iron Eighteen pounders, fifteen thousand gun barrels, some Sole and Harness leather — Uniforms for Ten thousand men, and Cloth for five or six thousand — yet the Ship appeared to be very deeply laden. ——

(New London August 2. 1782 (Signed) John Barry

State of Connecticut ss. County of New-London

August 2. 1782 — Then personally appeared John Barry Esqr. Commander of the Frigate Alliance and made solemn Oath to the truth of the above Deposition by him subscribed —

Before me Joshua Coit, Justice of Peace

A true copy from the Original in the Office of the Secy of Congress

Attest Robt Aitken Secy pro tem —

Harlem le 6 aout 1782.

Dear Sir

Je vous avans hier la lettre que vous mavez fait lhonneur de mecrire le 15 avril dernier. Comme Jay eu celui de vous rendre compte de paris de tout ce Jay trouvé vos affaires a mon retour de Bretagne a la fin de lannée derniere, Ja y votre reponse avans de rien faire sur cequi les con Jattends sur que, Si Javois eu de la place pour les loger aurois tout de suite fait transporter chez moy; mais vous connoissez ma maison que ne me donne que lespace quil me faut.

Si vous faites sortir vos effets dou ils sont, Il nest pas douteux quil faudra louer une chambre pour les mettre. Je ne say ce que cela pourra couter par an; Dix ou douze louis au que Jimagine Si on peut lavoir a moins, Je saurai surement. Javois vous fait aucune Convention avec la maitresse de lhotel de verneuil pour la garde de ces effets. Je crois vous lavoir demandé mais vous ne me repondez point a cet egard. Il faudra vray Semblablement leur payer quelque chose pour cela. Il Jenay aucune base pour le determiner.

Au reste Je ne pourrai mi les occuper que mon retour a Paris qui ne sera guere que la fin d'octobre. Je suis venu faire encore une visite a cet etat qui pleine ma satisfaction. Jy ai trouvé mr Adams avec des amis et de la consideration. Il

Me Semble que le Congrès doit être content de la manière dont il a conduit les affaires. L'état de la maison a la Haie a été a mon avis une des Choses les moins Dures qu'il Soit possible. Il n'étoit pas encore reconnu. Le peuple en fut frappé : Savez vous le peuple en fut beaucoup plus qu'il ne

Le a un membre de la legislature de son pays que j'aviserai de parler de politique. Je suis aussi fort peu en cas. Je n'aime pas les lieux communs le Jargon les choses un peu Secrettes. J'ay été comblé de joie de vous voir reelu dans l'assemblée provinciale d'Orléans que vous retournerez bientôt prochaine au Congrès. Nous connoissons votre façon de penser Sur ce point tout cela me plait fort.

Mad. Izard m'a dit il y a peu de jours la reponse au Compliment que je lui avois fait Sur la nomination de M. Izard au Congrès. Elle ne le savoit que par le public n'ayant pas eu de nouvelles de lui depuis le mois de Mars. Elle et tous les Siens se portoient fort bien après avoir eu la Grippe (l'influenza) qui a parcouru toute l'Europe. Il me semble qu'elle a été dangereuse qu'en angleterre ou beaucoup de gens en sont morts.

L'avantage de votre Consul mr Delfray me paroit bien petite
comme on le peut voir de
comme on le possible que vos considerations qui sont tant de
reputation faisons un batiment qui ne puisse pas tenir la
mer. Sa raison devroit servir le Heyder Ali au bien glorieuse
adieu my dear friend you know how much my yours &c &c

Count
Sarsefield

Arthur Lee. Esq:

&c

Oct. 9th

Dear Sir

Richmond August 10. 1782.

I perceive from your favor of the 30th. Ult. that you are immersed in that most intangled of all subjects, american finance. If it could be reduced to system, instead of consisting of occasional and irregular snatches of revenue, sure support might be promised to the war. But I fear, that as long as the states are tardy, Necker himself would be found impotent.

The fleet, which was said to be within the bay, never came beyond Hoccapas. A frigate was sent in, partly to embargo the flags of truce, and partly to order away the remaining French troops. I cannot learn their destination: but every account leads to an opinion that they are not in a state of offensive hostility.

Those gentlemen, who so strenuously espoused the instructions, left the assembly before their completion. Indeed I cannot understand, that they were ever begun. But I am rather inclined to believe, that the work was never entered upon; as I recollect, that a gentleman urged me a few days before the rising of the assembly to compose instructions for ourselves.

What to say to you on the subject of my return, I know not: nor shall I be able to decide, until I shall see our pamphlet in greater forwardness. I have as yet heard nothing from Mr. Mason or Mr. Jefferson. Dr. Walker sent me a few observations, which were lost on the road by the messenger. I shall probably regain them.

I wish, I could give you any interesting intelligence. But the reports in Richmond, which are the only circulating news, deserve no mention —

Adieu — Pray present me to Dr. Shippen, his lady and family.

The honble
Arthur Lee esqr
of congress
Philadelphia

To be lodged in
Mr. Hayes's office
Richmond

No 388

Edmund Randolph
Aug. 10th 1782

(No 388)

Mr. Jay in his Letter of Sept. 16, 1782 to the Secretary for foreign Affairs, enclosing a Copy of one from M. de Vergennes, says

That he has many reasons for thinking that the Court of France, wish to postpone the acknowledgment of our Independence by G. Britain 'till she shall second their own terms, excluding us from the Fishery & the western Country. That he thinks differ from Dr Franklin with regard to the views of the French Ministry, Dr. F. thinking them fair & honest. That the Commissioners should not be subjected to the French Ministry, but use their own Judgment & that of the Americans. That the French Court had Power to get him to treat with the British Plenipotentiary from Spain without assuming Powers, tho' his own have been ample to which he will not agree. That the British Court wanted him to treat with the British Plenipotentiary, having a Commission under which we were called Colonies & empowering him to treat with any men or Bodies of men in America; which he refused. That we should be honest & grateful but think for ourselves.

Mr. Marbois's Letter suggests several ways of depriving us of the Fishery, speaks of the Instructions meeting the american Negociators to the French Ministers as much approved, dispraises from letting us have seen all French influence is better fixed. Is afraid of the Independent Party in America among whom he alone

Samuel Adams exceedingly Thinks that at the conclu
sion of the war the Parties for France & G. Britain will shew
their

Mr John Adams in his Letter Sept 6th 1782
to the Secretary for foreign Affairs thinks it very pro-
bable that France is averse to our connection with any
other powerful Nation, that She was concerned in pre-
venting an Alliance with Spain, That Count de Vergennes
endeavored to prevent our connection with Holland, that
by his advice Dr Franklin refused to concur with Mr
in his advice Dr Franklin refused to concur with Mr
Himself in endeavoring to interest Holland in
ence some years ago, The same was attempted with
hen he signify'd his determination to leave Paris
Hague in order to make the attempt which was
That when he left Paris to come to America Count
rnes desired him to advise Congress to leave all
ean affairs to France & mind their business a
e. He states Dr Franklin as being entirely under the
uence of Count de Vergennes, so as to be merely the Instr
t Ministers opinion

Extract of a letter from Dr Franklin to the Treasurer Dec. 14. 1782.
"I shall think it hard when I am out of place to be
expended here, like poor unhappy Deane, who by the way I believe is
not respected hardly dealt with. Settlement of Accounts & payment
of Ballances is due even between Enemies"
We have put faith in every Adventurer who pretended to have
Influence here, & who when arrived had nothing but what our ap-
pointment gave him."

Foreign Ministers

Philadelphia Sept 23. 1782

Dear Sir

When I requested you to leave me my Security
for the bills on my brother, I little not at that time,
how soon, the Situation would be, that it would be
actually honoured. I presumed upon our former friendship
and it would have been, from various circumstances, un-
till naturally occur to you, as impossible, to dishonour
Have abused it — upon what foundation, and from what
quarter, you can best Judge that there is no prospect
of its being paid, is to me altogether inexplicable, but
it is clearly my duty at all events, to see that you
incur no damage in this transaction. How that is to
be done, is the matter to be considered, whilst it remains
in a doubt, whether the bill will be paid or not.

Be so good as to Suggest the mode, and I will endeavour
to arrange it, but let me entreat you, not to be under
the least anxiety on account of this business, for that
that, I have hitherto, so I shall still be able to retain
a title to your esteem, I am Dr. Sir, with great
P.S: Excuse my not Thanks & sincerity, your obliged friend
earlier, as I had previous engagements, & have & dedicated attendance
from home Septr 8. Thereupon called. Geo Greene

Proposal of the French Minister to Congress. M. de la Luzerne 1782

That the U. S will not be contented with a separate peace but will continue the war till their Independence shall be concluded & have secured their own peace, & with these G. B. that their Independence will not satisfy them but that they will pursue the British troops wherever they can be found.

6th page

That the U. S. will not be satisfyd with the acknowlegement of their Independency but will continue the war in all ways in their power till their Allies are satisfyd & the British troops are removed from the U. S. they will pursue them wherever they can be found.

Demands of France

To treat generally

2d To make the treaty of Paris the basis of the negotiation with alterations

as to Africa, India,
the Fisheries, Commercial regulations
in Europe, accord.ng
to equity & the usages
of the respective States
full Powers sent on
this to Mr G. to
declare the Inde
pendence provi-
viously & then to
treat on the Condi
tions proposed
above.

Jamaica Plain Oct 2. 1784

My dear Sir

I venture to write by the Post, as Mail-robbing I suppose to be at an end for the present: besides I shall not hazard any important secrets by the conveyance. When I had the pleasure of talking personally with you, I was induced by what you said to entertain a favorable opinion of Mr John Temple, in which I have been confirmed by finding that Dr Price confided in him. It pains me therefore to observe with what eagerness some individuals are endeavouring to hunt him down as a British spy; the foremost of whom, that appears in view is Mr James Sullivan, brother to the Hampshire delegate of that name. The assault is carried on upon the ground of a letter from the President of Congress to the Gov^r dated the 1^st of last March. That letter is I conceive no credit to Congress. I suspect there has been under-hand management, what we should call in G. foul play; & I wish, if you believe Temple innocent, that You would assist in searching it out. There is an allusion in the President's letter, of one's having been rec^d from Mr John Adams concerning him: but instead of telling what Mr Adams writes concerning him, we are put off with the tale of what he does not say / I use the term rec^d, the letter having been made publick / Can you not send me a copy of what Adams did write? I am also desirous of knowing, how it came about that Congress was roused out of their slumber, after having dozed so long, from the knowledge of Temple's arrival in October, to attend to a matter of so great magnitude, as the President represents it, towards the last of July. Who was it that first cried out in that honorable body / who while they employ Franklin in France & Adams in Holland to obtain intelligence, build their suspicions upon rumours & publications in England / a Spy! a Spy! a Traitor! Could I learn by your means who first set forward the business in Congress; & whether he did it of his own proper motion, or was pushed on by a concealed principal, I might possibly trace out more important movements. Let me have your assistance; & information whether I am at liberty to mention your having communicated the intelligence when I shall have received it. We have been making a loud noise about liberty, let us not act often in defiance & contempt of it. If what should be the first body in America raises an outcry against any person upon mere suspicions, without evidence; & then sets this or that state to which he may belong, to hunt him down, where are we? Who is safe from the concealed attacks & artful contrivances of the dark & designing?

By a private hand, I think Mr Clarkson of Philadelphia, I answered your letter that I rec^d some time before. In being speedy, you will add to the obligation laid upon your very humble servant & sincere friend

William Gordon

(N° 38)

His Excellency Dr. Benjn. Franklin Esq.
at Passy near Paris

(Copy) N°1 Bruxelles 7 Oct. 1782

I have y.r Honor to send you herewith a Copy of a letter from Mr. Robt. R. Livingston of the 18. of July last, of an order of Congress of the 2. of the same month to which he pleased to refer. — As you informd me in your letter of the 25th of Augt. last, that you had a copy of the order of Congress of the 12 of Sept.r 1781, ascertaining the Bal. due to me to be £2189 Livres 10 Sols 6 Deniers Ann. interest till paid, I have only to observe that the interest for 19 Months added to the principal debt amounts to £6196 Livres 19 Sols, for which sum I have drawn on you the following bills pay.le to my own order the 12 Sept. next viz — 1 for £2000 — 1 for £2000 — 1 for £2000 — 1 for £196.19. —

These Bills will be presented to you for acceptance, with which I hope you will Honor them, as I have drawn them at so long date, in order to accomodate you in the most convenient manner; but if you chuse to pay the money at a shorter period, be pleased to signify your wishes in a letter to me, sent to the care of Mr. Grand in Paris, that I may give him orders to receive it.

I have the Honor to be &c.
Signd — W. Lee

(Copy) N°2

Sir.

Passy Oct.r 21.st 1782

I received the Letter you did me the Honor of writing to me the 7.th inst.t, inclosing a copy of an order of Congress with a copy of a Letter to you from Mr. Secretary Livingston, informing me that you had in consequence drawn on me for £6196 6 8 pay.le to your order the 12.th April next. This is to acquaint you that I have accepted the said Bills hoping by that time to have Funds in my hands for payment: But as that is uncertain, I confide that you will not hazard the credit of Congress by indorsing any of them to others, till you have heard from me that I am likely to be in cash, of which you shall be inform'd in the month of January next. I have the Honor &c. Signd B. Franklin.

Hon.ble Wm Lee Esq. — Bruxelles

Copies of Letters from
Mr Lee to Dr Franklin. Nov. 12th 1782
Inclosing a Paragraph of Oct 4th "
His reply of Oct 21st "
(No 247.)

1782
No 247

(Copy.)

Bruxelles Nov.r 12. 1782

Sir.

I have had the Honour of receiving your Letter of the 20th. of last Month, informing me that you had accepted my several bills amounting to Forty six thousand one hundred & ~~fifty~~ ninety six dollars Nineteen bob payble the 12th. of April next, and you add; "I confide that "you will not hazard the credit of Congress, by indorsing any of them to others — "till you "have heard from me that I am likely to be in Cash."

This does not surprize me as coming from Doctor Franklin, especially when I have in my hands, the following extract from his Letter of the 30th. of March last to the superintendant of Finance, who had ordered him twelve months ago to pay this money, viz — "no demand has been "made on me by Mr. Wm Lee, I do not know where he is."

At that moment Doctr. Franklin knew where I was, as well as any Man existing, who had not his eyes on me.

I know Sir that the money has been already lodged in your hands for the specific purpose of paying the debt due to me, which you have hitherto unjustly withheld consequently the credit of Congress, is at present out of the question, with respect to me, in this business; — Therefore I am compell'd to inform you, that I am not in

His Excellency
Doctr. Benja. Franklin
at Passy —

(№386) Correspondence between Wm Lee & Dr Franklin in Oct. & Nov. 1782. about paying the former salary.

in any manner disposed to be trifled with any longer, & that you must take care to pay the Bills punctually which you have accepted.

I have the Honor to be, with proper Respect, Sir &c.

Signd — W. Lee

(No 247)

[Spicy.]

Dear Sir. The Hague October

I had the honor of yours of August 7th yesterday. The letters inclosed are sent to their Destinations —

I have long since taken such measures, as depended on me, and continue to do all that decency will permit to induce the States to send a Minister to Congress — I am convinced it will not be done before next Spring. To give you a compleate detail of the reasons of this would cost a tedious letter without use. It is sufficient to say, that every thing here is done against grain, and they cannot agree upon the man to send. All the Party of Van der Capellan de Pol & Van Berckel, the first & most both are devoted to the Court, & the Court are disposed to exhaust all their subtility, to intrigue and delay every thing which tends to cement the two Republics. —

It is not an easy thing to ascertain with precision, the boundary between Independence & Uncomplaisance; but, in this, I feel myself & I see in every body else, quite as much disposition to be complaisant, as is reconcileable with Independence: It is of more importance however, to be one than the other — It gives me infinite pleasure to learn that Mr. Jay is in this sentiment — Mr. Dana's sentiments may be learned from the following Extract of a letter from him to me of 5/16th September —

"In my letter of 19/30th August I told you, I was no longer at "liberty to pursue a Course, like that you pointed out to me in yours of the 7th "of the said month; that my late Instructions were clear & decided & that I was "glad of it: for had the matter been left to my discretion, I should have taken a "Course, not wholly unlike that you mention — I had prepared every thing for "the decisive step, & should have taken it against the opinion of you know who, "because my sentiments perfectly coincide with yours, so far as they respect the "dignity of the United States, which I have all along thot would suffer "from a more open & firm policy; and that their views & Interests would be "promoted & established much earlier by means of it. — I venture to

[illegible] hearkened to the advice that was given you, when I was in Holland
[illegible] of the United Provinces would, at this time, have acknowledged our Independence — nay more, the present Minor Party would have been the prevailing
and, in all probability, Affairs would have worne a different countenance
Europe, and we should have seen, by the aid of mediation &c. a seperate
treaty concluded between Britain & Holland. I am sensible, as I told you before
the difference between our Situations, yet this difference does not, in my opinion
necessarily require a System absolutely the Reverse. The same Engines cannot indeed
not work here.

The Instruction, which you say subjects us to the French Ministry
never been communicated to me. I cannot believe that any such exists
ed. I suspect that you put too strong a Construction upon it. Congress
have a very modest Unconsciousness of their own Abilities, to subject
ves, or their Ministers, to any body. There is not, in my opinion, a
n in Europe more enlightened than Congress; nor a Minister in Europe
to three of them — I mean Mr. Jay, Mr. Laurens & Mr. Dana — at least of
is such a Minister, I have not yet had the honor of finding him. The
lities of Ministers, which produce events, do not consist in Briefs, Portfolios
ills nor Cards. —

I was never in my life clearer in any opinion, than I am
this, that it would serve our Cause for Mr. Dana to communicate his
sion to the Minister of the Empress of Russia, and the Ministers of every
of the Neutral Courts at Petersbourg. I think he would not be refused
matter would be taken into Consideration & might be long delayed. But if
were refused, it would be upon the principle of Neutrality, and even this
would be infinitely less hurtfull to our Reputation, than to have a
ister in Europe, with such a Commission in his pocket, prohibited to make
use of it. It is now known that he has such a Commission, as much as
d be if he communicated it, as he might, in Confidence. —

Dr. Franklin, whose system has ever been to except Europe
of every Minister, but himself, that he might have a clear, unrivalled stage
consistent, when he wrote to Mr. Dana, that Congress were wrong in
sending

sending a Minister to Spain, Holland, Vienna, Berlin, Tuscany &c
But it is not consistent in Congress, as I humbly apprehend, to send
to Europe and then tye their hands. Subjecting them to the French Minis
say it freely, chaining them hand and foot. These chains I will never w
They would be so galling to me, that I could never bear them. I will n
ever, be wanting in respect or complaisance to those Ministers, knowing by
I shall ever esteem it an honor and an happiness
the News & the Politics of the times from you — and give me leave to assu
that I have the honor of being

Your Friends
& humble Servants
J. Adams.

The Hon.ble Arthur Lee Esq.

Duplicate

The Hague October 10. 17[illegible]

Dear Sir,

I had the honor of your's of September 4th yesterday. The Letters inclosed are sent to their Destination.

I have long since taken such measures, as I depended upon me, and continue to do all that Decency will permit, to induce the States, to send a Minister to Congress. I am convinced it will not be done before next Spring. To give You a compleat detail of the Reasons of this would cost a tedious Narration without use. It is sufficient to say, that every thing here is done against the Grain, and they cannot agree upon the Man to send. All the Patriots think, I am the Person; the Party or Van Berckel the Pensionary but both are obnoxious to the Court, and the Court are disposed to exhaust their Subtilty to prevent and delay every thing, which tends to cement the two Republicks.

It is not an easy thing to ascertain with precision in all Cases the Boundary between Independence and Unessentiality; but in this point, I feel in myself and I see in every body else, quite as much disposition to be complaisant, as is reconcileable with Independence; it is of more importance however to me than the other. It gives me infinite pleasure to learn that Mr Jay is in this Sentiment. Mr Dana's Sentiments may be learned from the following Extract of a Letter from him of 5/16 Sept.

"In my Letter of 29 of August, I told You I was
" no longer at Liberty to pursue a Course like that You
" pointed out in your's of the seventh of the same month:
" that my late "Instructions were clear and decided, and that
" I was glad of it; for had the Matter been left to my
" Discretion, I should have taken a Course not wholly
" unlike that You mention. I had prepared every thing

[illegible] divine that you would have taken it against the
[illegible] of your known nature: because my sentiments per-
" fectly coincide with yours, so far as they respect the Dignity
" of the United States, which I have all along thought wanted
" support less from a more open and firm Policy, and that their
" Views and Interests wanted to be promoted and established more
" certainly by means of it. I venture to say, that, had You hearken
" to the Advice that was given You, when I was in Holland,
" not one of the United Provinces would at this time have acknow-
" ledged our Independence: nay more, the present unjust Party
" would have been the prevailing one, and in all probability,
" Affairs would have worn a different Countenance there than
" and We should have seen, by [illegible]
" seperate Peace concluded between [illegible] and Holland. I
" am sensible, as I told You before, of the Difficulties that
" our Situation, [illegible] Differences create; but, did we [illegible]
" necessarily require to remove absolutely the causes. The [illegible]
" Engines indeed cannot be set at work [illegible]"

The Instruction, which You say you received from the
Ministers, has never been communicated to me. I cannot
believe, that any such one has existed. I suspect that You
have put too strong a Construction upon it. Congress
must have a very modest Assessment of their own Abilities
to subject themselves or their Ministers to empirics. She
is not, in my Opinion, a Sovereign in Europe more enlightened
than Congress, nor a Minister in Europe superior to three
of theirs, I mean Mr. Jay, Mr. Laurens and Mr. Dana,
at least, if there is such a Minister, I have not yet had
the honor to find him. The Qualities of Ministers, which
produce Events, do not consist in Dress, Horses, Balls and
Cards.

I was never in my life clearer in any opinion, than I
am in this, that it would serve our Cause, for Mr. Dana to
communicate his Mission to the Ministers of the Empress
of Russia, and to the Ministers of every one of the Neutral

Courts at Petersbourg. I think he wanted not to be [illegible]. The Matter wanted be taken into Consideration, and might be long delayed: but if he were refused, it wanted expose the Principle of Neutrality, and even this Refusal wanted be infinitely less hurtful to our Reputation, than to have a Minister in Europe, with such a Commission in his Pocket, prohibited to make any Use of it. It is now known, that he has such a Commission, as much as it wanted be, if he communicated it, as he might, in Confidence.

Dr. Franklin, whose System has ever been to speep Europe clear of every Minister but himself, that he might have a clear uninvaded Stage, was consistent when he wrote to Mr. Lovell, that Congress were wrong in sending a Minister to Spain, Holland, Vienna, Berlin, Tuscany, and every where else: but it is not consistent in Congress, as I humbly apprehend, to send Ministers to Europe, and then lie their Hands, subjecting them to the Insults, Ministry &c, stay at freely, chaining them Hand and Foot. Those Chains I will never wear. They wanted be so galling to me, that I wanted not bear them. I will never hereafter mean by my Respect or Complaisance to them Misinterpretingly.

I shanld ever esteem it an Honor and Happiness to hear the News and the Politicks of the Times from you, and give me leave to assure you, that I have the Honor of being your Friend and

humble Servant.

J. Adams

Hon.ble Arthur Lee Esqr.

Espana. 21. Oct. Rice, Indego & Rum the best Articles of Commerce with Russia

Nov. 7. The regulation of the Court of Russia is that any nation signing a treaty with her must pay five thousand Roubles to each of four Ministers who signed.

Mr. Jay 12. Dec.

Count de Vergennes & D. H. were of opinion that the American Commrs. might treat with the British Commissioners under a Commission styling us Colonies. Mr. Jay differed & told D. H. that he thought (as it did) that was against the acknowledgment of our Independence. Copy of Letter from L. Shell. to Genl. Carleton dated para 2 Sept. to D. H. by L. Shelburne. Gives a minute account of the intrigues of Count Vergennes to prevent G. B. from declaring our Independence. Was obliged to countenance these without commencation with D. H, who professed great confidence in the French Court, pretended to be embarrassed by the Instruction directing them to be ultimately governed by the advice & opinion of the french Ministers, which Mr. Jay did not think bound him to neglect the essential rights of his Country to the interests of the U. States. Details the endeavors of France to make him treat with Count d'Aranda without the latter shewing him any Commission, & to give up great part of the Western Country to Spain, or at least to renounce any claim to it. Will not yield to Count de Vergennes's opinion that he should treat with Spain, without her recognising our Independence. C. de Vergennes told him he was satisfyd that L. Shelburne was sincerely disposed to Peace. L. Shelburne on Mr. Jay's representation counteracted those of France and sent Mr. Oswald a Commission to treat with us as Independent States. In the above business M. Rainval was sent by C. Vergennes to L. Shelburne & Mr. Vaughan by Mr. Jay. Expresses France as intending & desirous to seperate us from G. Britain but so to restrain our power & greatness as to keep us under dependence on her. The French & Spaniards keep their Negotiations profoundly secret from us.

Mr. Adams, says he is of the same opinion with Mr. Jay & C. de Vergennes with regard to treating either with G. B. or Spain without being recognized independent. Mr. Jay told him our Allies did not play us fair wanting to deprive us of the fishery, Western territory & navigation of the Mississippi. The English intend to evacuate N. York. Count d'Estaing gone to Cadiz. Treaty expresses the claims of England for the Loyalists being restored to property & citizenship among us. Be thanks in order to keep up parties & disputes among us.

Mr. Jay in his Letter to the
Secretary for foreign Affairs dated
Paris Nov: 17, 1782, p: 50 says

"It is not my meaning, & I hope I shall not be understood to mean that we should deviate in the least from our treaty with France. Our honor and interest are both concerned in preserving it inviolable. All I mean to say is—
That if we lean on her love of liberty, her affection for America, or her disinterested magnanimity; we shall lean on a broken reed, which sooner or later will pierce our hand. The fate of Geneva & Corsica will justify this observation."

N.B. My experience during the three years negociations in wch I was concernd impressd me with the same opinion expressd above by Mr. Jay.

(. 8vo 2)

Feb: 25. 1782

Dear Sir

The last post brot me your favour of the 6th of July last; in which you acknowledge the receipt of my letter of the 17th of May 1781. which it seems had been more than a year on its way to you, having been about the world in the S. Carolina Frigate. I am much gratified by your readiness to enter into a friendly correspondence with me. I have been in much want of a punctual private correspondent in your quarter. There are many things to be learnt thro' such a channel only, which it is of importance to me to know. I have been long enough in your residence to feel the full force of your observations respecting it. Your account of the unchangeable nature of a real Tory is such as I have not yet found an exception to: but these radical Enemies of our cause; of publick liberty, and of the rights of humanity, too often find advocates among those whom we stand per fas per injuriam; if we should suspect them to be wanting in the soundness & sanctity of their own principles; and under the notion of manifesting a liberal and forgiving spirit, or of conciliation, those artificial pentices are sometimes introduced into office to the exclusion of others, whose integrity in the true political faith, and whose misfortunes, not unfrequently occasioned by that very integrity, should recommend them to

the first notice of their Country: But in great Revolutions like ours we must expect to find some wrong Men and wrong things. Touching one character you have mentioned the same general opinion will prevail; and to another, I know nothing personally about him; but if he is the Man you describe some folks should be upon their guard. It may be advisable when you have occasion to speak of some persons, to describe them by certain allusions, which I shall understand; because if your letters should be intercepted; a thing not improbable here, they might create some difficulties. — As to Mr. A. whose political conduct has been censured by some, had he not pursued his own plans with that independance and boldness of spirit which so strongly mark his characters, and which regulated by his good sense never degenerated into rashness, in my opinion the affairs of Europe would have worn a very different face at this day. I shall not perhaps be thought to attribute too much to him, by those who have attended to the progress of affairs in Holland, when I explain myself by saying, that in all probability had he not taken the decided measures that he did, without suffering himself to be dissuaded or deterred from them by certain apprehensions of exposing the honour and dignity of the United States, not only not one

of the United Provinces would at this time have acknowledged our Independance, but by the aid of Mediation, and some other Influences, we should have seen a seperate peace concluded between Britain and Holland; and perhaps Holland in the other scale; when her neutrality would have been more sensibly seen and felt than it is at present. I need not explain myself further to you.

Not having received a list of ~~the Members of~~ the last elections for Congress, and you being perfectly silent upon the subject, I am at a loss whether you are a Member of it. If I was certain you were, I should write you with much freedom upon the subject contained in the first paragraph of yours letter. It would otherwise, you are sensible, be improper for me to do it. That that independant spirit you speak of should not please ~~to~~ some, or that it should startle others, does not at all surprise me. But pray if you are not a Member, how happens it that you should know any thing about it? Answer me this question if you please. If you are a Member you will know what treatment he who manifested such a spirit, when he thought the Interests of his Country required, has received on that account. If the "hackneyed path" must be invariably pursued in all places, and under all circumstances, a certain station is very safe, as all responsibility must cease, together with liberty of Action. But at the same time 'tis not very pleasing or honourable.

I think there is not the least danger of the change you seem to apprehend in the political system of a certain Court. Their principal views, which the next year will open fully, are towards another quarter of the World; and in such a case, their political Interests, if I do not mistake them, will dictate another system of measures, & point out the necessity of preserving appearances of a friendly disposition (for there is in fact nothing more) towards a Power, which ~~might render~~ their plans abortive, or at least the execution of them exceedingly difficult. — Neither have I any fears of the accomplishment of the aim you speak of, (if it exists). In my opinion America alone, if she does not sacrifice the necessary foundation for it (you will understand me) may be shortly after this war, in a condition to prevent any such plan. I already in prospect behold our Country putting a check upon all such ambitious designs. The balance is in her hand, if She is wise for herself in time. I confide the sentiments of this letter to your prudence & friendship. You will be cautious to whom you may disclose them;

I have the honour to be, Dear Sir, with much esteem & respect

Your most obedient humble Servant

Mr. Arthur Lee Esq.

(1387) Nov 5. 1782

Sir

The business which renders my father's presence at Richmond necessary is of a most trying nature to him, as a parent, and as a man. falling as he is now, tho' gently falling, into the vale of years, (adversity is a dreadful attendant;) no breast, but your own need be appealed to, in the case I am now about to represent to you. his son Mr. John Wormeley, who was sent to Scotland at the age of eight years old, under the care of Mr. James M.Call for his education, was sent back to America by him in 1777, when remittances could no longer be made for his support; at the age of sixteen he arrived at New York, at age when he was in a state of irresponsibility, and by no means capable of acting from any impression, but such as first struck the mind, immatured by experience, unaided by advice of friends, and incapable of judging: thus circumstanced he remained with the British, till this period: he wishes, with his father's warmest approbation to reside here, who would next summer settle him in Frederic, and from the peculiarity of his case (clearly

not within the spirit of the resolution of Congress / we have hopes, that he will have permission to spend the rest of his days in his own country and in the bosom of his parents: if this should be denied to them, he will be, as a child lost to them. the severe stroke they met with but a few weeks ago by the death of one, my poor sister, will not receive a mitigation, should they now apply in vain. sure I am that no reason of policy can forbid his admission; he has been guilty of no crime; his years, and condition put him out of a state of accountableness. If you view this matter in the light I do, and see no impropriety in advocating his or at least in a fair representation of this matter, you will do me the greatest favor by supporting him, or representing it. my father will address himself to you and my friend Dr. Lee for your advice and assistance; it will be candid, and therefore influencing— with the most perfect esteem, and respect, I beg permission to assure you that I am, Sir,

your most obedient
and obliged servant—
Ralph Wormeley jun.r

Warner Hall—
5th: nov.r 1782

Ralph Wormeley Jr.
1 Letter
Nov.r 5th. 1782

Ralph Wormeley letter
Novem.r 5th 1782 (No 38.) (No 439)

Col: Richard Henry Lee
at
Richmond

Mo 432

It is not my meaning, I hope I shall not be understood to mean, that we ought deviate in the least from our treaty with France. Our honor and interest are both concerned in preserving it inviolable. All I mean to say is — that if we lean on her love of liberty, her affection for America, or her disinterested magnanimity, we shall lean on a broken reed, which sooner or later will pierce our hand. The fate of Geneva & Corsica, will justify this observation

Nov: 17. 1792. J. Jay

Nov. 17, 1792

Cloathing imported
under the care of the board of
war. July 10th 1780.
June 10th 1781. Cloath. & Compleat to be fur-
nish'd the army annually.
April 10th 1782
Cloathier genl. to receive
his Instructs. from War Office
& distribute by Cloath.
to be made to Deputys
direct?
Cloath. genl. to make a re-
turn once every two months
of all cloathing on hand

Sir Paris Nov.r 18 1782

The Instruction from Congress which directs us to pay so strict an attention to the french Ministry & to follow their advice, is conceived in terms so universal & unlimited, as to give a great deal of anxiety to my mind

There is no man more impressed w.th the obligation of obedience to Instructions. But in ordinary cases, the Paroxysm is so near the Deputy as to be able to attend to the whole progress of the business & to be informed of every new fact & of every sudden thought. Ambassadors in Europe consult Instructions to their Courts & give & receive Intelligence; in a few days with the utmost certainty In such cases there is no room for mistake misunderstanding or surprise; but in our case it is very different. Here at an immense distance. Dispatches are liable to foul plays & accidents. New Scenes open — the time presses — various Nations are in suspense & necessity forces us to act.

What can we do — if a french Minister advises us to cede to the Spaniards, the whole river Mississippi, & five hundred miles of territory to the Eastward of it? are we bound by our Instructions to put our signature to the cession, when the English themselves are willing we should extend

to the River to enjoy our natural right to its navigation? If we should be counselled to relinquish our right to the fishery on the grand bank of New-found land, when the british ministry are ready by treaty to acknowlege our right to it, are we obliged to relinquish it? If we are advised to restore Vermont to the Tories, are we to comply? If we know, or have reason to believe, that things will have weight upon the minds of the british Ministry against us upon some points will be communicated to them in some way or other, secret or open, if we communicate it to this Court, are we bound to do it?

I cannot think that a Construction so literal as this, was ever intended to be put upon it, & therefore I see no way of doing my duty to Congress, but to interpret the Instruction as we do all general precepts & mexims, by such restrictions & limitations as reason, respect & the nature of things demand.

It may sometimes be known to a Deputy, that an Instruction from his Principal was given upon information of mistaken facts. What is he to do? When he knows, that if the truth had been known, his principal would have given a direct contrary order. Is he to follow that which issued from mistake? When he knows, or has only good reason to believe, that if his Principal were upon the spot, & fully informed of the present state of facts, he would give contrary

directions, is he bound by such as were given before? It can not be denied that Instructions are binding - that it is a duty to obey them, & that a departure from them cannot be justified. But I think it cannot be denied on the other hand, that in our peculiar situation, cases may happen in which it might be our duty to depart on being exclud, or, if you will, pardond, for presuming that if Congress were on the spot they would judge as we do. I presume not to dictate or advise, but I may venture to give my opinion, as I do freely & with much real concern for the public, that it would be better if every Instruction in being were totally repeald, & enjoins upon every American Minister to follow the advice or ask the advice or even to communicate with any French or other Minister or Ambassador in the world. It is an inextricable embarrassment every time Advice would not be more seldom asked nor communication less frequent. It would be more freely given. A communication of information, or a request of counsel, & when be received as a compliment & a mark of respect, it is now considerd as a duty & a right. Your Ministers would have more weight & be the more respected thro the world. Congress cannot do too much to give weight to their own Ministers, for they may depend upon it, great and unjustifiable pains are taken to prevent them from acquiring reputation, & even to prevent an idea taking root in any part of Europe, that any thing has been or can be done by them. And then is nothing that humbles & distresses - nothing that shackles & confines, in short nothing that renders totally useless your Ministers in Europe so much as these positive Instructions to consult & communicate with french Ministers upon all occasions & to follow their advice. And I really think it would be better to constitute the Count de Vergennes our sole Minister & give him full powers to make peace & treat with all Europe, than to continue any of us in the service under the Instructions in being, if they are to be understood in that unlimited sense, which some persons

content for. I hope that nothing indecent has escaped me on this occasion. If any expressions appear to which the great importance of the subject & the deep impression it has made on my mind & heart are my apology.

With great respect &c &c

Sign'd John Adams

Secretary Livingston.

Private Office
Mr. J. Adams's Letter
dated Paris Nov. 10. 1783
to Secretary for Foreign
Affairs 25 Nov. 83.

Brussells 20 Nov. 1782.

Sir,

40

The difficulty of getting a Letter to you for some years past, has prevented me from writing to you so often as I should otherwise have done, relative to your Estate in England which, I formerly had the management of. — Since I left London your Aunt Mrs Dolman has dyed, & I hear the little freehold estate she was in possession of, that you are properly heir at Law to, is now got into the possession of a very artful & cunning Man, who is determined not to give it up without a Law suit. — The Tenants on the Freehold Estate which, I formerly got possession of for you, since my leaving England refuse to pay any Rent & keep possession of the houses as their own property. This they have been able to do from a very great omission or Fault in the Power of Attorney you sent to me, for you did not give me any authority to impower or authorize any person to act under me; therefore when I left England there was nobody legally impower'd to receive the rents & keep possession of the Estate for you, — which the Tenants to have taken the advantage of, & intend now to keep their several tenements as belonging to themselves. The Leases, of your Leasehold Estate in houses, in several parts of the suburbs of London, which brot you the greatest part of your annual rent, have been long since expir'd, therefore what Estate you have now remaining, that is, to which you have a legal right, consists of between two & three Acres of Land, part Freehold & part Copyhold, on which there are several little houses & some in little gardens as big as the floor of a 40 foot Tob°. House. — In this situation of your affairs, I did not immagine that you would ever hereafter receive one shilling benefit from this Estate & that you would be like several others that I know in Virginia who have a legal right to large Estates in England but have never been able to get possession of them, or one shilling from them; however lately application has been made to one to purchase the whole of your Estate both Freehold & Copyhold & your right to the little Estate that your Aunt dyed possess'd of. This Person offers to pay eight hundred pounds Sterling for the whole as soon as ever he is put into possession, but I think if you choose to sell it, that he will give One thousand

pounds

pounds Stg for the whole & if you incline to give me full & proper powers, I can contrive I think, to get him put into possession — when he must pay down the money.

If you were to ask my advice what to do, I shd certainly advise you to accept this offer without a moments hesitation; for as things are circumstanced, when I leave Europe, which I probably shall do next year, you will hardly find an opportunity of selling this Estate & I am satisfied you cannot now get any thing from the rents, as the present Tenants will not pay any thing & are determin'd to keep possession as long as they can. — I remember upwards of twenty years ago, a poor old Planter in your County, who had a right to an Estate in England, that was a very valuable one indeed; some person wrote to him from England & offer'd him £10,000 Stg for the Estate, which his silly Friends in Virginia advised him to refuse, the consequence was, that the poor old planter in the upper part of Westmoreland who is since dead, never got one shilling for the Estate & the Tenants who were then in possession have kept it as their own ever since.

Should you be disposed to sell this Estate, You should without loss of Time get a full & proper Power of Attorney drawn up, authorising & impowering me to get possession of, for you, as heir at law to Thomas Dolman late of Virginia Deceased, who was Brother Heir at law & Legatee of William Dolman late of Old Street Road in the County of Middlesex & Kingdom of Great Britain Deceased all the Estate or Estates whether Leasehold, Copyhold or Freehold in the Kingdom of Great Britain particularly in the County of Middlesex in the Kingdom aforesaid which were in possession of, or were the property of the said William Dolman at the time of his Decease, & for that purpose to commence, prosecute & bring to a final conclusion one or more action or actions, suit or suits in Law or in Equity, ejectment or Ejectments & to take all legal measures that may be requisite for the purposes aforesaid — To ask, Demand & receive or

recover

recover by distress or otherways or to make compositions for the same; all rents or dues whatsoever that are or may become due owing from or on account of any or all of the aforesaid Estates. To rent or Let on Lease or otherwise any part or the whole of the said Estate or Estates, at such yearly rent or conditions as to me may appear most beneficial for your ~~Estate~~ Interest; To sell & dispose of in perpetuity & forever, for you & in your name of any part or the whole of the said Estate or Estates to one or more person or persons for such sum or sums of Money as may appear to me a reasonable value for the same. — To substitute or appoint one or more Attorney or Attorneys to act under me with the same powers & authority that you give to me.

In short you must get some able & skillful Lawyer to draw up this power of Attorney for ~~me~~ you, & when you have regularly signed it, you must get two or three affidavits that your Father & Mother were legally married & that you were born in proper time after they were so legally married. The Power of Attorney & the Affidavits should be recorded in the General Court & you should send me by two different opportunities copies of the Record — with the State Seal affixed to them.

I will recommend you to Richard Lee Esq.r of Lee Hall to assist you in getting these papers properly drawn up & to contrive them to me.

I am Sir
Y.r most Obed.t Hble Serv.t
William Lee

Mr. William Dolman
Westmoreland County
Virginia

1782

To

Mr. William Dolman

Westmoreland County

Virginia

Prudence to Wm Dolman
of Westmoreland Co.
20 Nov. 1782.

Dear Brother. (№388) Bruxelles 20th. Nov. 1782

I have rec.d your Letter of the 22 & 24 Sept.r with a note of the 6th. of Oct.r — The greatest part of it's contents has been in fact answer'd by several Letters written to you in the course of 3 Months past & sent by various opportunities.

To guard as much as I can against any farther tricks or evasion of Doct.r Franklin, ab.t paying the Bills he has accepted for the debt due to me from Congress, I inclose you the correspondence that has passed between us since I received Mr. Secretary Livingston's Letter of July last. Mr. Geo: Fox a native of Phil.a & has a B.r there, spent part of last winter in Bruxelles, was frequently with me & in March went from hence to Paris — He was intimate at Passy & being now on his way home, when he arrives, you may possibly from him get [illegible] viva voce proof that D.r F. knew where I was the 30th. of March last. This is however certain, that he almost every day sees Mr. Grand or some of his Family & he always knew that Mr. Grand was my Banker, therefore he could not be at any loss to find out where I was, had he been disposed to pay me.

The trick you will see, evidently originated with Mr. T. Lee can tell you what pass'd between him & Mr. Lovell in Dec.r last ab.t this business, who said to my Nephew that he had written to me on the subject & sent 4 Copies of his Letter, but I neither rec.d original nor any copy of such Letter — therefore _____ but enough.

Whenever there is Peace, which Those out of the Circle of the Cabinets, do not see any kind of certainty of, for this

(1358) Wm Lee to 20th Nov. 1782 (Nov 24 67.

Winter at least, Am: will do well to rest upon her Arms, & not be in a hurry to form farther European connections — Her whole attention should be applied to correcting the abuses & disorders that have arisen from the War — By providing good Seminaries of Education in each of the States; a steady wise & regular system of Government & Administration, procure the happyness of the present Age as well as of posterity; by Oeconomy in expenditures & judicious imposition of Taxes, to pay off its publick Debt without injury to Agriculture & population. These are objects well worthy of the whole attention of your wise & virtuous Patriots.

Pray present my compliments to Doctor Williamson & when he has a leisure moment to spare, I shall be glad to hear from him. —

Col. Gorham just come from England assures, that orders have been sent six weeks ago not to evacuate Chas. Town. The Truth of this you can judge of from the Fact. If it is not evacuated, it will be a decisive proof that the secret design of renewing the Am: War is not relinquished in the British Cabinet & of course every power should exert every nerve to take advantage of the Enemies present weakness & drive them by Force out of the Territories of the 13 States next year. Ld. Shelburne & his motley band seem to be in a very unsteady state — The Gen: opinion in Eng. is, that he cannot keep his ground; but that cannot be ascertained till after the meeting of Parliam: the 26th inst. — My opinion of him is not altered you know that is, that he is a very great ..... fully equal to D. F. — We were told last year that Mr P. had lost all his Negroes by the invasion of the Enemy & that the Lands were confiscated — but he has lately, as we are told, received a remittance of between 3 & 400 £stg in bills from his Steward which is double of what he owed. — pray explain this to me. — Comps if you please to Mr. J— & all Friends.

Adieu.

(Letter of Wm Lee Nov 20 1782 recd at)

Nov 24 67

Bruxelles 22 Nov. 1782

My Dear Brother. (No 387)

I rec.d your Letter of the 18. of July last, answ.d it via Amst.m & Boston the 1.st of Oct.r — A copy was sent by a Mr. Bell from Ostend to Baltimore or Phil.a & another Copy was sent to Mr. Dobrée at Nantes to forward from thence. Since that, I have rec.d your Letter of the 8 Oct.r & 15 Nov. 1781, which my Nephew Thom.s your Son, was to have forwarded from Phil.a in Dec.r last, but it did not leave that City 'till August. I feel myself much obliged by the public news you gave me, which would have been very interesting had your Letter come to hand in the reasonable time you had a right to expect. I have not heard of either Col.o Monroe or Parker being arrived in Europe, but you may be always assured that every service & civility in my power will be rendered to any one that you think worthy of y.r recommend.n

You tell me that you have belonging to me, Sixty eight thousand, one hundred Dollars in Continental Certificates, sixteen hundred of which bear interest pay.le in France: and Thirteen thousand three hundred and eighty seven and one half Dollars in Certificates of the State of Virginia. As this paper is not at present, of any transferable value, for I hear that Congress has stop'd paying the Interest & that Virg.a has stop'd the circulation of its own paper, — I submit it to your Judgement & Prudence, whether it will not be proper to put all those paper Dollars into a small wooden box to be seal'd up & written upon what is contain'd in it, & that the contents are my property. Your Sons Thom: & Ludwell should sign this on the Box, & to guard against Fire a List of the Dates — N.os & Sums of all the Certificates should be taken & lodged in the hands of our Br.r J. L. L. so that if the Certificates should happen to be burnt, a regular affidavit can be made of the loss, whereby I suppose, the property may be recover'd from the Public.

Along

I long ago advised you that I had advanced & paid for you, since I left England Six Thousand two hundred & ninety three Livres, ten Sols & seven Deniers Tournois. I consider that almost every sol of this money was paid for your Son Thom.s Education & maintenance, that you have many Children & that he is heir to his mothers Estate & to his Uncle R. L. L.'s, therefore it appears to me to be only simple Justice that he should be answerable for this money; but I shall esteem myself fully paid, if he will give his Sister Hannah, my Goddaughter, a written engagement to pay her this money when she is married, or when she shall arrive at the Age of twenty one Years.

If you do not disapprove of this proposition pray seal & Deliver the inclosed Letter to your Son Thom.s — & if he gives the written engagement required, let me know it, that I may credit your Acc.t & therewith send him a discharge for the Debt.

(I would cheerfully send you such new publications as I can get here that are worth your attention, if I could find any method of conveying them to you, but this I cannot do at present. Indeed I find infinite difficulty in getting a Letter to you, for after they reach Phil.a, as the former practice of a certain great Man there, seems now to have become universal in that City — the Letters are either opened & destroyed, or kept there several months. — The Public occurrences in Europe last Campaign are hardly worth mentioning — The Dutch have thrown away two 64 Gun Ships — lost in the No.th Sea. All attempts against Gibraltar have been fruitless, tho' attended with great loss & infinite Expence to Spain. I have much reason to believe, there has been much blackwork with respect to Am.a in the negotiations at Paris last Summer, which 'tis probable will never be brought fully to light; at least I fear so, from knowing well all those you have had there to watch over the interests of Am.a — 'Tis unfortunate that Mr. Laurens refused at first to act as a Com.r for negotiating a Peace, nor do I know yet, that he will now act, after receiving another call from Congress to take upon him that Office, for we hear, that he is most deeply affected at the Death of his Son. — Whether we shall have Peace or not this Winter, is really more than I can determine at Present: we shall be able to judge better in a few daies for the Br.h Parliam.t meets

the

the 26th of this month; in what state the negotiations are that still go on at Paris the Public are not certainly informed; but this the most intelligent assert to be Truth, that the terms insisted on by F. & S. particularly the latter, are such as G. B. cannot agree to. Am. Independence is, & has been from the begining out of the question with G. B. — I am however inclined to think we must have Peace soon, for both G. B. & S. are intirely exhausted both of Men & Money. The Revenues of F. are somewhat embassied, & there is a cloud hanging over her in the North, that will probably break out into a dreadful storm if she continues this War another year. Notwithstanding this, the preparations of F. & G. B. are such, that it looks as if they intended a warm Campaign in the W. Indias next year.

Ct. D'Estaing is gone to Cadiz to take the command of a strong fleet — that is to go as soon as they can be got ready, with 10 or 12000 Land forces to the W. Indias. We have had such dreadful weather, last Summer & Fall that there is a general scarcity of all kinds of grain in G. B. & Ireland; which has already been productive of great murmurs & open riots. Here the Frost is now, as severe, as it was any time last winter, & every appearance looks as if we shd. have a most severe Winter.]

Can you prevail on our Mr. F. L. L. to write to me & give an Acct. what has been done in paying & receiving my old mercantile Ballances. I wish to have a particular state of all that has been paid to each credr. & all that has been recd. from each of those indebted to me. — Also what tenders have been made to such of my Credrs as may have refused to receive the Ballances due to them in paper Money.

Our sincere Love attends you, our Dear Sister & all the Children, & we beg you to take the trouble of remembering us to all Relations, particularly to Mr. Henshen & your Dear Sister there. Heaven protect you —

Farewell — W. Lee

Richard Henry Lee Esq.
Virginia

X28 letters

Wm Lee
R. H. Lee
22d Novr 1782.

(No 289)

| ~~No 241~~ |

No 241

1782

Paris le 11 decembre 1782

Dear Sir

Je suis surpris que vous ayez pu croire le 2 Septembre dans le cas de vous plaindre de navoir pas de mes nouvelles. Jay repondu regulierement a toutes vos lettres excepté aux deux dernieres dont je ne vois pas les dattes. La premiere men parvient en Hollande [illegible] de vous lire [illegible] vaisseau [illegible] laissez ma attendre icy. qui aurois Ja pu vous m[illegible] [illegible] a la Haye. La republique est en fermentation mais vous ne la connoissez pas pour vous la faire connoitre, il faudroit vivre un an avec le peuple. Je ne suis icy que depuis huit jours et je nay point encore vu mad[illegible] Izard. Elle ma mandé quelle seroit demain chez elle. Je verrai la mesme tems mad. Leveneil et tous vos effets aussitot que je le pourrai. Jay deja eu lhonneur de vous mander quils mavoient paru en bon etat. Il y a un an. vous mavez paru deposer depuis quils fussent retirés de lhotel de vendome. et mis ailleurs. cela doit etre fait des le premier jour ou vous men avez parlé, je savois bien chez moy ou aller loger, mais je ne le vois pas. Il faudroit donc louer un garde meuble le faire les frais du transport de ce qui ma paru une depense inutile, d'autant plus que je ne crois fort surement que chez mad. Leveneil. Je ne sçay ce quelle demandera pour les avoir gardés. si vous avez fait quelque convention avec

Elles, Jaurois peine de mon interêt. Vous n'imaginerez point être
tous pourquoy Jerai vous ces effets en meme tems que J'irai
Chez mad. Izard. Son quitte loge a present dans ce meme hotel.
De vous dire ne vous tiez le cela fait un fort bon effet pour
que. me vous en aura encore plus de considération pour
vous nous pourrons peut être bientot vous envoyer finalement
tous dons J'imagine sans peine que la privation the-
orique pour vous. Vos preliminaires sont signés avec
la condition à la verité que le traité n'aura d'effet que quand
celui des autres puissances sera consommé; mais comme nous
J'avons vu, nous ne savons pas encore a quoy nous en tenir
mais bien des gens regardent le plus difficile fait quand on
a réglé ce qui vous regarde. Je sont persuadés qu'ainsi nous
aurons quelques semaines on finira bientot l'arrangement general.
Jai fait fâché que vous ne m'ayez indiqué personne ici pour
avoir soin de faire passer vos effets en cas d'absence de ma
part. Vous savez que Jen fais souvent. Jen raisonnerai avec
mad. Izard et mr Adams avec qui Jai passé tout le qui en
vous ici pour la pacification. Il a bien travaillé en
Hollande et Sy lui attiré beaucoup de consideration de la part
des gens qui y menent les affaires. Il a fort bien pris son tems
et fait ses demarches fort a propos. notre ambassadeur qui

n'est pas un homme commun on fait le plus grand cas. Je
serois fort aise qu'il put vous voir mais je ne crois pas que ce
fut son intention, quand même la Place seroit vacante.

La perte du Col: Laurens me fait beaucoup de peine. C'est un
evenement bien malheureux à la fin de la Guerre. le dernier coup
de fusil.

Je ne vous parle pas du siege de Gibraltar ni
evenemens dont les gazettes vous instruisent
quand vous me ferez l'honneur de m'écrire
peu de vous, de vos arrangemens, de vos plans pour l'avenir
le Soyez toujours persuadé de l'interet que j'y prendrai toujours
ma vie.

Je suis fort aise des soins que nos negotiateurs se sont
trouvés mais je m'y fie a moitié. Je connois les commandans de
Cay ce qu'ils en veulent. vous avez là deux hommes à qui je vous
prie de dire bien des choses de ma part, si vous les voyez quelquefois
ce sont M.rs de Bivile marechal des logis et des Andrezons, qui
commande le genie.

Cay

J'ay attendu Jusqu'à aujourd'hui pour pouvoir vous
mander la conclusion de la paix generale. nous
l'attendons d'un moment à l'autre mais nous ne l'avons
pas encore. le Commerce de toutes les nations paroit faire
partir cette idée, j'en prie Dieu. Je vous souhaite une heureuse
année. Je vous prie d'être toujours bien persuadé de

From Wm Pinkney

To

The Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

Pomfret

Virginia

Dear Sir. 17 Dec. 782.

you will much oblige me by giving me a speedy answer to the following enquiries — Will the laws of Maryland permit a Creditor (who is not a Citizen of that State) of a Bankrupt in England to recover his debt by attachment of the effects of that Bankrupt in the hands of Debtors in Maryd.? Have all debts due from the inhabitants of Maryd. to British Merchts. been confiscated or not? Are the following named Persons now resident in Maryd. & where there, & are they people of property viz David M.Lure, Nicholson & Kennedy, Hopper & Kent, John Stewart, Richd. Cromwell, Thos. Brooke Hodgkin & Anthony Banning. — — — — — —

Before this reaches you, no doubt, Congress will receive the Provisional Articles of Peace between G.B. & Amca. sign'd by the Comrs. on each side the 30th Ulto. at Paris, but as they are not to take effect 'till a Peace is concluded between F. & G.B. I know not how to congratulate you at present, on the occasion; for 'tis certain that L.d Shelburne the Premier in Engd. & the Kings Confidant & the D. of Richmond have declared as their sense of these Articles, that they are to be invalid to all intents & purposes, if the present negotiations with F. shd. not end in a Peace; yet looks very much as if they were determined to have them so construed, as they have hitherto declin'd to lay them before Parliamt. tho' repeatedly call'd upon so to do by Mr. Fox & others that they may be irrevocably ratified. It is true also, that Mr. Pitt Chr. of the Exchequr, Gl. Conway & T. Townsend Secs. of State, have declared in the Ho. of Comns., that they conceive the Articles to be irrevocable, however this contrariety of opinion in the Hs. Ministers, is one striking proof of the Duplicity & faithlessness of L.d Shelburne, & will no doubt prevent Congress from taking any measures in consequence

of

their being signd, untill they are ratified by Parliam.t or the Event of Peace with F. takes place, which is to bring them into effect — unless it is to get well supplied with all kind of Stores & Cloathing provided, if G.B. should hereafter either be capitable or desirous of renewing the War in Am.a; tho' indeed I do not conceive this can happen, for I am inclind to think the terms of Peace between G.B. & F. are at this moment settled & agreed upon, or will be so before the new year begins. Engl.d is totally exhausted both of Men & Money & F. wishes much for Peace, as she is likely to have very soon work enough on her hands. This I can't venture to explain to you here, but you may be assured that the great & terrible conflagration in Europe is nearly on the point of breaking out, in which France is deeply concernd. The cold work of stockjobbing has been carried on between Paris & London. I have seen a late letter from a Gentleman ~~in~~ London to his friend herein which are these words — "it is said, that several of our Countrymen "now at Paris & in the confidence of the American Negotiators, have "made considerable sums in consequence of their early intelligence"

However at this moment of universal Joy for Peace, is not perhaps the proper period for exposing or bringing to Justice either the great or little Rogues — but that salutary work shd not be neglected when the proper Season arrives. In Holland things seem to be coming fast to a Crisis. the P. of O. party have begun with raising Riots at the Hague & Amst.m — All the Cities in Holland, Zealand — Friesland & Overyssell — have determind to appoint their own Magistrates & Officers that were before appointed by the P. of O. This he is determind to oppose with Armies — In England L.d Shelburne seems to have made up his Band of the dependents on the Treasury & those insignificant individuals that did not before belong to any Party such as L.d Abingdon, Gen.l Conway — Geo — Dempster &c. — This

Lord Shis is determined to verge all the Patronage & Riches of the E. Indias, which with the Treasury he thinks will bring him defendents & support enough, especially as the Bedfordsare beset down by the immense filunder of Rigby — L^d. North, who never had any party or influence but from the Treasury, is silent & the Rockinghams somewhat weakend by the desertion of the D. of Richmond whose Pride & paultry vanity was galled, at his not being chosen for the Head & Leader instead of the D. of Portld.

These things I know are totally immaterial to Am^a but they may be amusing to you & yr. Friend Mr. I—d, to whom I pray you to present my best Comp^s.

The Eng^h papers tell us that Dr. Franklin has already declared that Congress shall appoint Consuls in Dublin & the other Principal Ports in Ireland as soon as their is Peace. Tis probable, that in his Sovereign Will he has also already fixd on the Persons who are to be Consuls not only in Ireland but in England & Holland too.

Our best Wishes & Love attend you & all Friends.

Adieu

16 Letters of Wm Lee to A Lee.

17th Dec. 1782

(No 242.)

(Copies)

1782

No 242

17 Jan 1782

Richmond Dec. 27. 82.

Dear Sir

It will be with peculiar satisfaction, that I will endeavour to procure for you a few fertile spots in the Western Country.

Altho I am possessed of locations to a considerable amount, yet I do not mean to retain the whole for my family, because it would look too much like a monopoly. My wish is to be instrumental to introduce some European Settlers that may teach us industry and the business of manufactoring. This was one of my views in proposing the Copartnership, expecting that

One or two convenient Track would be as much as you would wish to receive finally.

Will you favor me by such conveyance as may offer from Philadelphia the earliest intelligence of such parts of the Negociations for Peace as may be proper to mention.— I am exceedingly anxious that you remain firm in your purpose to serve your Country until the end of the War.— If I am not mistaken the hypocrisy of some of your late opponents, will appear in due time. The cabal is disagreeing among themselves.

I enclose you a Mem.o for two or three Books for my little Boy, now at a French School. If they are a good kind and you should meet with a bargain of such in Philadelphia. please

procure them, and forward them
to this place, against next May.
I hope you will be speedily restored
to your health; that you may be
again fitted for the service of the publick.

I am Dear Sir

very respectfully
your most Obed. Serv.t
Arthur Campbell

"Mr Deane must be sensible, if he will but reflect, that as an agent only he greatly exceeded his line, and embarrassed the continent, the Congress, the army & himself."

Paine's Reply. –

"It was Mr Deane's particular fortune to grow into consequence from accident. Sent to France as a commercial agent under the appointment of a committee, he rose as a matter of convenience to the station of commissioner of Congress."

Ibid. –

Silas Deane.

Arthur Lee in one of his letters says, that Mr Deane made 60 000 pounds sterling while he was in France as a commissioner. But the fact is that he made nothing. After his recal he spent more than a year in Philadelphia waiting for the decision of Congress respecting his affairs. During this period, as he was in no business he could not have lost his money; but when he returned to France he was in absolute poverty. Among the papers in the French offices I saw an original letter from Beaumarchais to Count Vergennes, stating that Deane was in Paris destitute of the means of subsistence, and suggesting to Count de Vergennes the propriety of the

government's affording him temporary assistance; that Deane had claims on Congress, & when his accounts were settled he would be able to refund such money as should be advanced to him: that his son was at school equally distitute with himself. - Upon this representation of Beaumarchais the government, or rather Count de Vergennes advanced to Deane privately twelve thousand livres. Afterwards, near the close of the war, Count de Vergennes made this statement in a letter to M. de la Luzerne, then Minister from France to the United States. Deane left France without refunding the money, and as he never received anything for what he called his claims a Congress, because his accounts were never settled, it is not likely that this money was ever paid.

The only difference, which I wish to make here is, that Mr Deane was in poverty when he returned to France, that he did not possess large means, nor live in extravagance at Philadelphia, and consequently that he had nothing when he was recalled from France, & could not have accumulated any thing more during his agency, than what he considered his claim to be on Congress.

It is obvious, then, with what singular impropriety Mr Lee throws out the insinuation that he had accumulated sixty thousand pounds, thereby implying that he had committed the enormous abuse of appropriating the public funds for this purpose. J. S.

Head Quarters Camp before Newport
28th August 1778

Genl. Orders.

The whole Army to retreat this Evening at 8 O'Clock, in the manner ordered, last evening; with this alteration only, that the right wing of the first line retreat in the West road; the left Wing with the second Line and Reserve, in the East Road.

By the Genl. Order
Wm Peck Adjt General
State of Rh. Island.

From I Lovell to I Langdon
Dated Boston Feby 25th - 1783 -

We are full of the news of Peace. The Confirmation will be a Tax of £300,000 on the Town, by the fall of Goods, as say some chop-fallen Sellers. But I am sure that my monthly Receipts prove, that it is high time we had an end of a War which depends for its support upon the Free Gifts of the people, debauched by a depreciating paper Currency.

Mr Howell whom we are called upon in the Gazettes to toast as one of our Saviours, has been here to receive the praises due to his Wisdom; but he was unable to tell whether Rh Island had voted the Quotas called for by Congress. A man with a very modern share of reading, will always be able to say handsome things in favor of truly Republican principles of Government

From M Weare to Brig: Gen: Whipple
Dated Exeter april 24th 1783.

Dear Sir

I have now the satisfaction of informing you that I have this day received from the American Congress a proclamation for the Cessation of Hostilities between these States, and Great Britain, with direction to make the same public, which I propose to do at Portsmouth on Monday next. I have wrote to Captn Salter for firing the cannon at the Fort, on that day, in the manner that was mentioned when you were here. Viz: 13 at six o'Clock in the Morning, 13 at Noon, & 13 at Six o'Clock in the Afternoon; and have directed him to take your advise and direction with respect to any more. I have inclosed his letter and asked the favor of you to forward it to him. I have wrote to M Sheriff Parker & inclosed a proclamation to be published at the State House at 12 O'Clock. I propose to be at Portsmouth on that day if my health permits.

With sincere Congratulations on this happy

Silas Deane

1780. Oct. 25. – Baron de Beaumarchais wrote to Count Vergennes, stating that Deane had returned to France, with a view of arranging his mercantile affairs; that he had been disappointed in funds, which he expected to meet here; that he was quite destitute, and dejected at his condition and prospects; that he had been a friend to France, and entertained great respect & attachment for M. de Vergennes; that his son was in College with slender means; – and the whole tendency of the letter was to excite the sympathy of the minister, and draw from him pecuniary aid for Deane. This aid was rendered, on what account I know not, to the amount of 12,000 francs.

guyon nor any other ministers of the king has as yet mentioned him. I have nothing to add to what I have already said to you respecting the character and principles of Mr Adams, unless it be that it is desirable that he should take no part in a work so important, so difficult, and so delicate as that of peace, and that Congress would do well to confer this trust on one, whose zeal is enlightened, peaceable, and conciliating."

Mr. Izard.

Oct. 22d. 1780. — From Vergennes to Luzerne. — "I am not astonished at the tenor of Mr Izard's conversation. I have always found his head exalted, (sa tête exaltée) and I have never had confidence in his principles or his sentiments. I say the same of A. Lee. I am persuaded, that he will fully justify my opinion when he shall arrive in America. But if the declamation and noise of these two persons will excite only disgust in well disposed people".

Choiseul meditates War in 1767.
Sismondi, ~~XXIV~~. 365, 385, 392,
267.—
Events of 1755-6 —— Pb. 66, 56.

Pownall's remarkable Speech advising an acknowledgment of independence & a federal alliance with the U. S.—(March 17, 1778) containing the Memorial of the American Commissioners to the Court of France (~~Sept~~ 1st Sept. 1777.)— see Parl. Register Vol. ~~IX~~ V. p. ~~50~~ 58—
This Memorial has not been found among the papers of the Commissioners.
± See "Remarks on the ~~Misrepresentations~~ Pb. (Bd. Lib.) p. 88

Mr. Jefferson, in a letter to Dr. Franklin, Aug. 13. 1777, said that he thought that ~~if~~ the British could acknowledge "the absolute independence & ~~sovereignty~~ sovereignty of the U. S", perhaps a league of "mutual offence & defence" might be formed between the two countries. MS. Letter, Vol. of "Letters to Franklin", p. 220.

Extracts only are in Pownall's Speech.— The whole purports to be printed in "Remarks on the Representations ~~script~~ of the Court of Madrid &c". p. 88 (Pamphlet in Bd. Library.) See Life of A. Lee, I. 333, 347.

Lord Shelburne said that when American independence should take place, "the sun of G. B. was set." (1778) Parl. R. p. 287, 378
see also Malouet
Pfeffel's memoir, p. 1. – MS.

Duke of Richmond said the French "had done nothing wrong in coming into a treaty with America" p. 321.
& other remarks.

L^d. Camden said the English ought to have destroyed the Spanish fleets, unless Spain had ceased to arm,
Ib. p. 457.

Downfall of English liberty predicted by the duke of Richmond in 1776. – Life of Reid, II. 264.

Account of Stephen Sayre, ib. I 27.

Loss of Lee's papers at Berlin.

Meeting of Richmond, Rockingham & others (Mar. 1778) for action in Parl^t. on the subject of independence.
Mem^s. of Rockingham II. 347, 350

French emissaries not sent to America before the Revolution.
Marbois's Louisiana. 151
Hazard [redacted] – VII. 152

A. Lee to John Adams.
Philad.a 26th. Jan. 1783.

"The servility, envy, & avarice of the old man you mention (Franklin) have been the more pernicious to our cause, as he is most unaccountably rooted in the opinion of many, and nothing but success will in their eyes justify a conduct founded upon opposite principles."

Chancellor Livingston's Resignation.

Arthur Lee to Wm. Lee.

Phild.a Jan. 26, 1783.—"Mr Livingston has resigned. His chancellorship could not be held with his secretaryship, and he preferred the former. It is probable Genl Schuyler will succeed him. I shall resign my place in Congress in a few months, being convinced that I can do little service, and finding that it exposes me to perpetual enmities, of which I had much and bitter experience in the last session of Assembly, when every art was used to procure my recall; and altho'

it was without success, yet to be thus opposed without doing the public any material service determines me to retire altogether".

Mr Lee was unpopular in Virginia & particularly with the legislature. There were two causes of suspicion of Mr Lee's character, which operated to his disadvantage in Virginia. The first was, that he sent over his secretary Thornton to England, with the view of communicating intelligence to the English government. This was unquestionably a mistake. Thornton went over to gain intelligence respecting the preparations that were making to fit out the fleet at Portsmouth. He betrayed his trust, however, and gave intelligence in London, or at least joined himself with persons engaged in the stock-jobbing business in such a way as to excite just suspicions. When Mr Lee found it out he dismissed him. His private letters to Thornton clearly prove, that he had no design of this kind in sending him to England. It would have been better, if, in vindicating himself, Mr Lee had not endeavored to fix the same charge upon his associate Commissioners, where the testimony was equally futile as that against him. Circumstances were such, that these suspicions went abroad and produced their effect against Mr Lee, who was believed, particularly in Virginia, to be in the English interest.

The second cause of suspicion

was also connected with his Secretary, Ford, whom he took in place of Thornton. A rumor went abroad greatly to the disadvantage of this person. Gov. Henry wrote to Congress, when informed that Ford was Mr Lee's secretary, "that he was a dangerous and unfit man to be in such a place, being strongly suspected of being a disaffected seditious person, in league with the enemy, and guilty of forging paper money!" This was communicated to Mr Lee after Ford had left him for America, and caused in him much surprize, as Ford's conduct had been of the most exemplary kind while with him, and as far as he had heard of him in England and France. Whatever may have been Ford's character, he was faithful to Mr Lee; but this suspicion, added to the one above, contributed to keep alive the suspicion that Lee was in some way connected with the English. The worst that can be said of him, in regard to those secretaries is, that he was deceived in their characters, & that he should have been more cautious.

There was probably not a truer patriot in America, than Arthur Lee, nor one more firm and decided in the course he professed to pursue. There is not a glimpse of proof that he had any bias of affection or interest towards England, which could be considered as compromitting

his attachment to his own country, or his zeal for her cause. His faults of temper and indiscretions were innumerable and made him a very unfit man for the post he held abroad, but the reproach of having towards the enemies of his country, or seeking personal ends of profit or gain, cannot be applied to him without marked injustice.

Much esteemed (No 190) Chantilly feb.y 28th 1783

worthy Sir,

My son Ludwell comes again to put himself under your patronage in his law studies, from whence we both regretted that he was compelled to remove by the necessities of the times. Independent indeed of the powerful consideration of your friendship for himself and me, I feel strongly the propriety of giving preference of encouragement to the institutions of my own country to those of other states, and I am happy to be informed that sensible men in the neighboring States, entertain a proper sense of the benefits to be derived from your liberal, benevolent attention to the instruction of youth; as I understand that young gentlemen now of Philadelphia propose to finish their studies with you. My son will in all things follow your friendly advice and be grateful to the Bestower for giving it.

So far as we may judge at present it would seem that we are not far removed from the possession of that blessing which you have so ably contended for— the independence of the United States appears by the King of England's speech to his Parliament to be uniformly [illegible] granted by him; and

(№390)

R H Lee to George Wythe

Feb. 28th 1783

many other corresponding accounts make it more than probable that a general peace has already taken place, upon which favorable prospect I do most heartily congratulate you —

Mrs. Lee presents her compliments to your Lady, and I beg ~~title~~ to be continued on the roll of your best friends. I am with the most perfect esteem & regard dear Sir your most obliged & obedient

Richard Henry Lee

Honorable

Geo. Wythe Esq?

Geo. Wythe Esq

Richard Henry Lee

Feb. 28th 1783

Bordeaux 6 March 1783

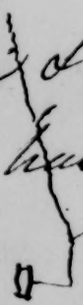
Sir

We are arrived at the period which few thought so near. Spain has received Carmichael in the absence of M Jay as Chargée des affairs you will know the particulars the detail being transmitted to Congress by the Brig Minerva The Doctor has had a severe fit of the gravel but is rather recovering. M Lamme is in London expect he will soon be nominated to that Embassy Mssrs Jay & Adams are at Paris — At present America may direct her sole attention to her internal Government have settled all urgent affairs abroad. we are desirous to see the measures that will be adopted for the liquidation of the Paper and other debts. I am respectfully Sir

Your very Hble Servt

John Bondfield

The Marquis de Lafayette past thro this City
two Days past he was obliged to send himself to
Madrid to get matters settled note to retard the
ratification of the Articles, they are at a
loss to define the meaning of the Western
Boundaries great Britain having assigned
the Line of demarkation in the middle of the
Mississippi & reserved the free navigation
were they have not a foot of Land



My Dear Sir,

Milton March 14th 1783

I Received yours of the 19th Inst a few days ago. and upon my first going to Town procured. & now Inclose an attested Copy of the Resolve you desired. if you ever requested it before it must be in a Missing Letter. as I do not recollect your ever Expressing a wish to have it before now. The Committee for Laying out the Lands, have not yet done the Business. The delays that have taken place are to be sure very Extraordinary I do not wonder if they appear suspicious to you. they have done so to me at certain Times. but I am Inclined to think they are more oweing. to the Spirit of Indolence or Procrastination than any other Cause. Yesterday the matter was called up in the Assembly. & another Gentleman added to the Committee whether this will Expedite the Business, Time will discover. I shall watch & push it as fast as I can. I wish for Peace but I suspect no great progress is yet made in that Business. what the obstacles are. & Indeed every thing relateing to the matter seems to be strangely Concealed even from those who ought to be Informed

minutely. a Packet for Congress arrived
here a week ago ~~for Congress~~. & I am Informd
was not sent off by the Governor till yesterd
whether his great Sagacity suggested to him
that it contained nothing Important or
whether he was prevented by the want of
public Money. which I hear is the reason give
I cant say. I hope it will arrive safe &
give you some Intelligence agreable to your
own wishes. but I rather suspect that your
Expectations from that quarter are not very
flattering. before this reaches you. probably
you will receive Mr. Adams' resignation. &
be at no loss to account for the cause of it
you know the Instructions of Congress to the
Commissioners for making Peace. & from them
& this resignation can Judge what may be
the Apprehensions of New England. if we lose
our Fishery. or have the Territory which
have a decisive right to Curtailed. we shall
not set very easy under it. we shall at
least Speculate as Wretched that Policy which
gave them up. even if ~~succeeded~~ it originated
at Versailles or Philadelphia. and as we
have not Virtue enough to live without
Commerce, while we see the Southern States
Extending theirs. upon Staples which they are
not deprived off. we may possibly have recourse

to measures I never wish to see.
I wrote to you by General Lincoln, which
I hope you have received before now. I am
with my regards to all friends. Your
most Obd. Humb.
Serv. M Warren

Arthur Lee Esq

It is of importance that Congress should know this circumstance & therefore I wish y.r Excellency were appointed to inform them of it. My reason is that every Member of Congress may have it in his power to communicate it. I feel it one important fact — That there is no hope of any further pecuniary aid in Europe. The conduct of the French Court in this respect has been decisive. Some persons have indeed flattered themselves that their positive declarations were merely calculated to restrain our exertions & made terms easier. But this idea can no longer have place in any sound or discerning mind whose conduct has been consistent with her declarations, & if she had ever so much inclination to assist us with money, it is not in her power.

But whatever may be the ability of Friends or individuals, we can have no right to hope for much help to expect aid of others, while we show so much unwillingness to help ourselves. There can no longer be a doubt to Congress, that our public credit is gone. It was very easy to foresee that this would be the case, & it was any particular duty to predict it. This has been done repeatedly. I claim no merit from the prediction, because a man must be naturally blind or wilfully blind who did not see that credit cannot long be supported without funds.

From what has already been said Congress will clearly perceive the necessity of further resources. What means they shall adopt it is in their wisdom to consider. They cannot borrow & they state without pay. The thing has happened which was expected. I cannot presume to advise. Congress well know that I never pretended to any extraordinary knowledge of finance, & that my deficiency in this respect was a principal reason for declining the Office I have had reason to be still more confirmed of my incompetency because the plans which I did suggest have not met with approbation. I hope therefore that some abler mind will point out the means to save our Country from ruin.

I do assure you Sir, that it is extremely painful to me, to be obliged to address Congress on this subject. I wish most sincerely that I could look at our future prospects with some indifference that I have been brought to Remember into. Perhaps I am not sufficiently sanguine. It is common for age to listen more to the voice of experience than Youth is inclined to. The voice of experience forbids those evils long since. There was a time when we might have shunned them, but I fear that fortunate moment is past.

Before I conclude this Letter

must observe on y^e^ measures that y^e^ wicked men totally ignorant of your affairs have put in Act conduct w^ch^ severe necessity compell me to pursue Such men appear an intimate knowledge of things have shewn the distrust & public credit to me & interpreted y terms of my resignation into reflections upon Congress. I hope Sir that so long as I have y honour to serve the U. S. I shall feel proper contempt for all such senseless. I shall confidently expose myself to y candor of y^e^ Rulers to judge of my conduct, on full & intimate knowledge. Writers for a News-paper may indeed thro the medium of misrepresentation pervert y^e^ public opinion. But the impartial conduct of y^e^ Servants is not amenable to that tribunal. I hope however to be excused for observing that on y^e^ day on w^ch^ I was publickly thanked & reinstated in y^e^ confidence, those Dispatches arrived from Europe w^ch^ tell you it was already at an end. The circumstances w^ch^ I alluded to in my letter of Augst. were not yet known in Europe. It was not known y^t^ R. Island had unanimously refused to pass the Impost Law, & that Congress had repealed it. The very delays w^ch^ the measures of Congress had met with, were sufficient to sap the ground & destroy their credit. And we now know that they have had that effect. When those circumstances therefore shall be known it must be overturned. I saw this clearly, & knew that until some plain & rational system shd^d^ be adopted & acceded to, the business of this office wd^d^ be a business of expedient & chicane. I have neither the talents nor disposition to engage in such business & therefore I pray to be dismissed. I am &c

To the Presidt of Congress. 17 March 1783 signd Robert Morris

Extract of a letter from M. de Ledeulx Minister from France to the Treasurer dated Philadelphia March 15. 1783

I abstain from repeating here the other parts of the Comte de Vergennes Dispatches w^ch^ I had the honor to communicate, because the truths they contain are well known to you, & because they may all be reduced to this single position — That without a speedy establishment of solid general Revenue & an exact performance of those engagements w^ch^ Congress have made, you must renounce the expectation of Loans in Europe.

Dear Sir

Richmond March 24. 1783.

I am sorry, that your labours have been so unsuccessful, as your favor by yesterday's post states. Three days' intermission from Law, would enable me to complete the rough draught of the pamphlet. But the rapid approach of the general court will not allow such an intermission. However, I shall probably have it ready for the inspection of the committee by the time of your return to Virginia in May. Should Mr. Jefferson's voyage be ~~forth~~ frustrated by the bright prospect of peace, we shall inlist an able auxiliary into the business.

Your friendly information concerning the proposed reimbursement to former presidents will, I fear, bring nothing to me, as my uncle's representative. His offences, as president, did not exceed those of any other delegate, and no account exists of any charge whatever, nor of any hints, on which a charge may be built.

As a creditor to my father, you shall receive equal measure with others. What that measure will be, I do not yet know. I have the honor to be with great esteem Dear Sir

y. m. ob. serv.

Edm. Randolph.

The Honble
Arthur Lee esqr
of congress
Philadelphia.

98 ii 11

Edmund Randolph
March 21st 1783

(Nr 386.)

Dear Sir

Jamaica Plain April 2. 1783

Hearty congratulations on an honorable peace, in a most critical season of American affairs, must be first mentioned; & then I may add, that to two letters I have rec'd no answers, tomorrow I may not be able to say so, when I have been at the post office: to the last I can expect no answer till the next week, it having been sent only a fortnight. The side of the sheet contains a curious extract from the London Gazetteer of Jany the 10th, being a letter of commendation to President Laurens in favour of Silas Deane when the latter returned to Philadelphia, & a certificate signed the middle of last Dec. by Dr Franklin in behalf of the said Deane's honesty in his mercantile transactions for Congress, to remove the imprecions that might be made upon the public by some charges printed against him — the other side a plan of an import that should not interfere with the rights & sovereignties of individual states, & just a groundwork for enslaving the continent.

What may have been sent you from France I know not; but you may depend upon the following information.

The British would not allow the boundaries of Nova Scotia to terminate at St Croix, but demanded Kennebec at first, & afterwards insisted upon Penobscot as their ultimatum, until Mr Adams produced the records of the Massachusetts, & the authorities of Shirley Pownal Bernard & Hutchinson, as well as the original grant of Nova Scotia by James the 1st to Sr Wm Alexander, & invited the British ministry to state a single reason why Kennebec or Penobscot as the boundary of Nova Scotia, that it might be answered in writing, which brought him to reason. The fishery cost some trouble, & satisfaction could not be obtained on that point until Mr Laurens & Mr Adams told the British negotiators, what their colleagues appointed to by their silence at least, that they never could put their hands to any articles without an express acknowledgment of our right to the fisheries, & tolerable satisfaction upon all other points respecting it. They were obliged to do a great deal for British creditors & even for the outlying [illegible], but any rights, which would be of no lasting detriment to our country.

They had indeed a great deal of danger & trouble from the quarter whence I suspected it, but by a judicious manoeuvre got fairly to windward.

Mr Jay has done himself great honor by his conduct, through the whole business. Mr Laurens was present only the two last days the 29th & 30th of his behaviour was consistent with himself.

Dr Franklin from the time of Mr Adams's arrival went on with them, in perfect unison.

Virginia I trust will watch the motions of Pensylvania, & prevent our becoming provinces to that Power. Methinks Congress should be removed. Would not York be an eligible situation for a while? It is central; it is healthy in the summer: it is an open port both summer & winter: it is easy to get at it by Land & from the more distant state: there are too many of that state indeed that are for lording it over their brethren: but when Pensylvania finds that the seat of continental government is removed, it will probably commence a staunch advocate for the universal liberty of America, & be a counterpoise to the York Patriots. Having happily finished the game with G B, beware let us suffer ourselves to be bilkt out of the stakes by any single state whatsoever, lest we become the laughing stock, instead of remaining the admiration of the world.

The confederation must be adhered to, or the Union will be of no long continuance. The spirits of the Yankees will ride, now they are in no danger from a foreign enemy, they will be soon as zealous for their state rights & privileges as any others, the Rhode Islanders not excepted.

I wish disagreeable difficulties may not be produced by the military. Something handsome ought to be done for the officers; but it must be left to the states to adjust the consideration with their own corps.

The wise & honest among you will have full employ. It may be our happiness that we have no treasure, or it might prove an engine in the hands of individuals to destroy our liberties. I was pleased to hear that Ld B was opposed to any place's being a sea port.

I have wrote under disadvantages, not being so well as usual; but was desirous of writing & trust to your candor to excuse faults. Had Mr Adams been arrived three weeks ago (not that he is arrived) I could have told you who would have been Governor, but who will be chosen next monday is somewhat uncertain.

When leisure admits, let me have an answer with all that secret history which may be communicated with propriety, accompanied with directions whether to conceal it or to spread it in conversation, & you will oblige

Your very humble servant

Yours sincere friend

William Gordon

King George April 4. 1783. (236)

Dear Sir

I am sorry my engagmt. to return immediately to Richmd. deprives me of yr. pleasure or shod. be happy to wait on you to pay my respects to yrself and family at Chantilly. It is with concern I hear you have thoughts of withdrawing from the service of yr. country. If yr. guidance and direction of the Stat, thro her difficulties encompass'd as she hath been with those of every kind, hath hitherto been an object worthy yr. attention certainly those arrangmts. wh. shod. take place upon yr. establishmt. of her sovereignty, as well with respect to yr. order of yr. govt. (if any change shod. be thought necessary) as yr. enacting those laws wh. may be calculated to form & adapt the spirit & temper of yr. people to yr. degree of govt. are equally important. You are no doubt to objects of yr. utmost consequence & as certainly as they are committed to the care of able and virtuous or unskilful & designing men will yr. people feel yr. good or bad effects perhaps for ages to come. Many who retain yr. prejudices of a monarchick education, many young men just from yr. schools, &

many without any education at all ~~with his~~ now y^e day of difficulty is over, will be desirous of obtaining seats in y^e legislature. Those who form y^e lower class must act in subserviency to men of talents & whatever be y^e talents of these young men may possess, they are neither calculated nor will the people & publick confidence so far as to take the lead in y^e Republick. Those elderly gentⁿ who in addition to y^e acquirements of study, from y^e direction & management of our publick affairs during y^e contest have become profoundly versed in y^e windings of y^e human heart & in y^e affections of society not only possess y^e confidence of y^e people, but in every view are those who upon y^e present occasion ought to stand forth & take y^e lead. They are without those prejudices or y^e intemperate heat of youth and the State hath grown up in her independence and their honest love, in y^e arrangements they will propose they will be guided by their wisdom and y^e affection of a parent to its offspring. and under their auspices the people may expect such wholesome regulations as will make them more happy & less opposition & of independence. In the faithful & able part you have acted upon the late theatre decisive

and independent as you have been, you have not fail'd to make enemies, but the malignity of the people hath not been able to affect y. minds of y. publick who have look'd on with deliberation & assur'd by events of the eminent integrity and propriety of yr. conduct, have felt themselves more grateful & warmly interested in yr. fav. in proportion as these attacks have been more base & unprincipled. Believe me yr. retreat from the publick service is a matter wh. will not be lamented only by a partial part of y. Utah. You will pardon the liberty I have taken in joining the wishes of a citizen to those of a friend & believe me to be with y. greatest esteem & regard very affectly. yours

Jas. Monroe

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Jas. Monroe

Paris April 12th. 1783.

Dear Sir

We have had a very dull pause since the Peace. no news from America, and a stagnation in England, which has left us in a painful state of uncertainty. Now indeed the Ministry is arranged for a little while and Mr. Hartley is expected over to finish the Negotiation. You know him he is talkative and disputacious and not always intelligible so that I expect we shall be longer about the busi=ness than is necessary.

I am not able to conceive, how a ministry composed of parts so heterogeneous can go on with business. it cannot be expected to be solid and durable. Mr. Fox professe to mean to finish soon and liberally, but I know not what opposition and contra=diction he may meet in the cabinet.— I confess I dont like the change at all. Shelburne and his set would have gone thro well. Mr. Laurens who is in London seems pleased with the change, at least he was with the prospect, a few days before it took place, and he seems to think that the Tories are not so much regarded as we feared. — Shelburne did the best thing of his whole life, when he made peace, and the vote against him does no honour to his opponents. The peace is really much better for England than she had a right to expect, and the continuance of the war, would have been ruin. This the present set are sensible of, but truth is a small sacrifice to Faction. The vote of dissatisfaction with the Peace is a disagreeable event, and one knows not what effect it may have. I dont believe it could ever have been

carried if a treaty of commerce had been signed on the 30th. of November. Why the commission for making such a treaty was revoked without issuing another, you must ask Mr. Marbois. I know not.— I think however you cannot too soon send a Minister to London, to arrange finally a system of commerce and to watch over all your interests in that Country French Politicks are now incessantly at work in England, and we may depend upon it, they labour less for our good than their own.— If our interests were the same with theirs we might better trust them, yet not entirely for they do not understand their own interests, so well as we do ours.

Congress will never adopt a right system of foreign affairs until they consider their own interests as distinct and keep them separate from those of all other Nations. One essential part of the business and duty of their Ministers is to watch French Politicians as well as English, to cooperate with them where they coincide with our system, and to counteract them where they interfere with it. Albeit this has ever been my opinion, it was so when I was in congress in 1775 & 1776 & 1777 and every days experience in Europe, in every Country in every department has afforded something in Confirmation of it. I have acted in conformity to it, at every risque, and considering the furious wrath it has occasioned, and the violent efforts to demolish me, with wonderful success. But the success would have been much more compleat, if Congress had adhered to the system as steadily as I did.

With great Esteem and Respect sir your most obedient and

Hon. Arthur Lee Esqr.

Most humble servant

J. Adams

Portsmouth New Hampshire 17 Sept 1783

My Dear Sir

I cannot omit an opportunity that offers by a vessel bound to Virginia to congratulate you on the Happy Event, which for many Years has been the Great Object of your Labours and anxious cares = The very unequivocal part you, My Dear Friend have taken in this Great Revolution, must furnish you hours of retirement with the most pleasing Reflections. tho the terms may not be in all respects exactly conformable to our wishes, they are perhaps equal to what we have a right to expect, all things considered. —

My Happiness is greatly encreased by this joyous event as it opens a prospect of seeing you here, I already anticipate the pleasure of recapitulating with you those Private as well as Public consultations in which you took so eminent a part & which has produced such happy effects.

This Country, My Dear Sir is very particularly obliged for your exertions to secure the most valuable branch

of

of the Trade; The Duke's as a small token of my sense of the Obligation. I must beg your acceptance of a Quintal of Fish which I think is of the best Quality. Capt. Falconer who is so obligeing as to take charge of it, says, it is uncertain what part of England he shall go to but thinks he can convey it in the safety from whatever place he may be at

with very particular attachment and the greatest Respect I am. My Dear Sir

Your Most affectionate & Obt
& very Humble Servt

17. april 1703
Gov Hopple
R. ft. Lee Esq
Answ

Wm Hopple

Honble R. H. Lee Esq

The Memorial of the Officers of the Virginia Line on Continental establishment agreed to in a general meeting convened at Fredericksburg on Monday the 12th and continued by Adjournment to Friday the 16th of May 1783

To the Honble Speaker and House of Delegates of Virginia

Gentlemen

While every honest heart must expand with Joy and every generous mind be filled with pleasure on the glorious Return of Peace your Memorialists as they have been with the foremost in the hour of danger to obtain it so they would wish to be among the first in celebrating its grateful Return and thus with effusions of heart-felt joy and sentiments of unfeigned sincerity their warmest congratulations are offered to your Honble House trusting to the great Disposer of all things that the happy event will be accompanied with such Blessings as will amply compensate for the mutual Sufferings of the Citizen and the Soldier. and having now obtained that grand object and arrived at that long wished for Period with which by the assistance of divine providence their earnest exertions have been so happily crowned they beg Leave as well for your Soldiers as themselves in terms of the highest respect and in grateful Remembrance of the chearfulness with which your Honble House attended to the Subject of their last requisitions to lay before you the last memorial they trust they will ever be under the necessity of offering — First. We wish in a particular manner to express to your Honble House our entire Satisfaction

of

of the ready and chearful attention which has been hereto fore paid to
their representations respecting the tract of country intended your Officers
and Soldiers on Continental and State establishments as military Bounties.
We acknowledge and are happy in embracing this public Opportunity to do
so that whatever deficiencies may in that respect at this time be pointed
out to your honble House yet your Memorialists are perfectly conscious
that no wilful default can with Justice be imputed to the Legislature
but on the contrary they verily believe or rather are in a great
measure sensible the same hath proceeded from misrepresentation
and the almost total impracticability throughout the west to appropriate
and specify the Lands intended for your Officers and Soldiers agreeably
to the original Intentions of this Commonwealth for your Memorialists
allege and are persuaded they will be able to evince to your honable
House as far as the nature of the Circumstances will admit that
neither the Quantity or Quality of the lands allotted for your
Officers and Soldiers are equal to the Generous intentions of the
Legislature or to the just expectations of the Army and as great
quantities of the private land have been already located we
find ourselves in a most disagreeable situation. Impressed
therefore with the highest sentiments of the Justice of the Legislature
we have no doubt that their best endeavours will be exerted
on Behalf of their Officers and Soldiers fully to avail them
of

those military bounties which hath ever been deemed the most permanent and effectual retribution for their services — We humbly take occasion to propose that in lieu of those lands appropriated for the aforesaid purposes by sundry acts of Assembly there be granted a sufficiency of lands to answer the said purposes within that tract of country — lying on the North West side of the Ohio River between the Rivers Scioto and the great Miami and the said River Ohio and that the lands already allotted as aforesaid shall remain untouched as provided in the said acts until those Lands we now request shall be — guaranteed and secured to us individually beyond all possibility of Dispute when your Memorialists will as chearfully relinquish all — further claims to Lands as they will now thankfully acknowledge the very great indulgence.

Secondly the peculiar distressful Situation of our Brother Soldiers affects us as the Witnesses of their unparalleled hardships and grievances perhaps more sensibly than any other Body of men however nice may be their feelings And when we reflect how constantly they have acted what patriotism and perseverance they have uniformly displayed in support of the great Cause of this Country and in fine how — gloriously instrumental they have been in effecting a happy a — most happy Termination of our late and long troubles we —

conceive

conceive it to be our indispensable Duty And as we have fought
together on the field and are truely sensible of their merits as we are bound by
Gratitude as well as Justice to cooperate with them as far as may be
in our Power consistent with the great Duty we owe our Country in
fully investigating and obtaining for them [illegible]
[illegible] those acts of gratitude and generosity which from past experience
we are amply satisfied hath ever been the benevolent and generous desire
of the Legislature to bestow upon them for when our own [illegible]
reasonable expectations are fully answered we shall feel unhappy —
extremely unhappy indeed should the brave veteran who hath so nobly
persevered to the end be suffered to return unnoticed "to perish in the land
he hath so freely bled to defend" We do therefore in the most feeling and
affectionate terms beg permission to recommend them to the generous
Consideration of your honorable House not only on the Score of
Bounty for their faithful services but that their Lands may be given to
them clear of all expences — Expences which the knowledge and feeling
of every honest man must confess them totally inadequate to . The
Situation of your Officers is extremely different = they only request
that protection from your Authority during the term employed in
surveying the whole of the Lands which they hope from generosity
and without which for many years to come they cannot expect to reap
the least advantage from the most valuable Rewards of
their

their hard earned wages long Toils and extreme sufferings &

Thirdly in the fullest Confidence of the Justice of your Honorable House that proper funds will be established for the redemption of the certificates granted to your Officers and Soldiers for Pay and Depreciation so as to give them Credit and Stability. We hope the Subject will be taken up this Session; for 'tis that is done not only the honest intentions of the Legislature will be frustrated but the wants of many of your late Servants will induce them to part therefrom to their great Injury and Disadvantage.

Lastly We beg leave to appoint Brigadier Generals Muhlenberg = Weedon = Scott = and Morgan = Colonels Wood & Heth = Lieutenant Colonels Temple - Hopkins - Fowles - Clarke = Captains Burnett & Carrington or any five of them to present this memorial and confer with your honble House respecting the Premises and upon other Subjects of matter with which they are charged

P. Muhlenberg B.G
& President of the Board

A Copy Test

John Beckley Clk H.D.

Copy of the memorial of the
Officers of the Virginia Line
on fontinental establishment

7 June 1783. Mr Laurence London

Articles proposed beyond what is supposable at the Court of G. B.

Mr Hartley's Powers do not authorize him to do any thing.

He hastily with our Commissioners in the Negociation.

The tone of the British Court much altered — necessarily seems no longer their intention — Mr Fox spoke him that orders were actually sent for the evacuation of N. Y.

Mr H. proposed a temporary revival of Commerce instead of a Definitive treaty.

18 June. The present Ministry by totally [illegible] G. B. [illegible] come in, [illegible] embarrass our measures.

All Duty unmanufactured produce of the U. S. may be imported into G. B.

Not a word of a definitive treaty

Notes of
Mr Lawrence's
Letter June 19th 1815

Versailles 29 Juin 1783

Dear Sir

Je serois très faché que cette lettre ou vous apprit que vos effets ont Suivi ceux de Mad.e Izard car J'ay une impatience extreme de Sçavoir Sur votre continuation bonne Santé. Je Saisis avec garde de manquer cette occasion de vous les renvoyer. Elle étoit precieuse a tous égards. Je Souhaite qu'ils vous parviennent en bon ordre. Ils sont dans le meme état ou vous les avez laissés, a l'emballage près dont Je les ai fait envelopper. Mad.e Izard a payé tous les frais ainsy Je ne Suis point dans le cas d'avoir recours a Mr. Schweighauser le Debtor Mad.e Lenoeul maitresse de l'hotel de Vendome n'a rien demandé pour la garde. Je aurray avec grand plaisir la nouvelle de leur arrivée. Je vous prie de vouloir bien faire mes cour a Mad.e Izard et l'assurer de mon respect. mille choses pour moy Je vous prie a son mari. J'oubliois de vous dire que M. Barclay votre Consul icy m'est venu trouver au sujet de vos effets mais Je Sçais deja comment avec mad.e Izard qu'elle les feroit passer avec les Siens. J'espere qu'elle aura un bon vaisseau les recommandons nous pas les épargnées.

Il est facile de Juger de la difficulté que les habitans des états unis trouveront a acquitter leurs dettes et il faudra bien

que leurs croanciers prennent un peu patience. Je suis très aise
du Succès de nos troupes dans votre pais. Je le regarde comme le
fondement d'une union si desirable pour le bien des deux pais
nous allons avoir une communication faite desormais. nous établissons
cinq paquebots qui en se combinant avec ceux des anglois mettront
les negocians dans le cas de donner de leurs nouvelles et d'en recevoir
tous les Six semaines. On n'en avoit d'abord destiné que Quatre.
Mr de St John que nous nommons Crevecoeur habitant de la nouvelle Jersey
a obtenu le cinquieme. C'est un francois établi depuis 25 ans en
amerique.

Notre tranquillité d'europe est menacé par les mouvemens de
l'impératrice de Russie qui veut attaquer les turcs. l'empereur
n'agit pas encore mais toutes ses troupes sont sur la frontiere
et il est bien difficile de croire qu'il reste spectateur oisif de la
chute d'un empire dont il lui conviendroit fort d'avoir sa part
mais cette part est bien difficile a déterminer. les turcs lui
disputent le cours du danube. si les Russes
prennent Constantinople cette liberté sera plus precaire. les
turcs éprouvent aujourd'hui le sort qu'ils ont fait subir aux
grecs dans le 15e Siecle. Ils donnent aussi l'exemple aux nations
qui refusent de s'éclairer et repoussent les gens qui leur

apporteront des lumières. avec cela peut être les Russes ne reussiront
ils pas aussi bien qu'ils le croient.

Je crois point d'autre nouvelle qui puisse vous interesser. nous
avons beaucoup de voyageurs en angleterre. qui y font des sejours
courts. on a publié un pamphlet parfaitement bien fait sur la
paix pour la defense de Mr Sholburne.

Pourrez vous me faire avoir des nouvelles de l'homme dont
je soins icy de signalement? Je vous en serai infiniment obligé.

Adieu mon cher ami vous connaissez mon amitié et
inviolable attachement

Bordeaux 2e June 1783

Arthur Lee Esqr

Sir

Referring to what I had the
honor to write you the 3 Inst. I was in hopes
to have obtained passage for your Goods on board
the Ship Roberts but the Owners have entirely
filled up the Ship that it with difficulty we have
got all the Goods belonging to Mrs Izard on board
your articles will be shipt on board the Elizabeth
Sophia that will leave this the next week for
New York and will go addressed to Mr Dick & Gales
who I shall write to advise you so soon as they
arrive —— M. Wm Lee I am told intends to
embark at Ostend — please to enquire of M. Wade by
to whom he addressed the sixty Cases Wine consigned him
for the Alexandria being without any information on
that head since their arrival at Philadelphia nor know
we in whose hand they were lodged. Mrs Izard
will

will inform you of the Situation of affairs at P—y Mr Barclay is charged to audit the accounts of Dean Williams &c I cannot say how they may be settled. Mr. J—y is going to pass the Summer at Passi Mr Laurence is gon to England on publick Business Mr Adams remains to see the finishing stroke to the negotiation. Spain is tedious in her operations it does appear that any thing is yet concluded Carmichael Act the minister at Madrid you know his faith which I am told he accords with all the Consequence of a Statement as you can see steadily & firmly establish all the Powers in Europe must become suiters you have nothing to ask of any of them but much to grant. Russia is at the eve of a war with the Port the Emperor it's ally will join Russia. France & England will unite to oppose the progress of Russia it being the Interest of the two last to support the Turk in his possessions thereby securing the Continuation

continuation of a Fish branch of Commerce which a Change of Government might divert —

at all times permit me to tender you my respectful Services and to assure you that I am most truly

Sir

Jersey Wt. &c.

John Bond Jeffd

21 June 1783

I am this instant favord with yours of 6th may which by this conveyance leave only time to acknowledge & to congratulate you on the happy dispersion of the States we cannot doubt of your overcoming all difficulties that the different Assemblies will take effectual means to discharge the publick Debts. that the Army will be well satisfied & that the Article which appears to lay so heavy on the States in the treaty will be temperired M.r. Jeffries to London is on that subject —

Duplicate

Paris June 23. 1783.

Sir

The British Ministry & Nation are in a very unsettled State. They find themselves in a new situation, and have not digested any plan. Ireland is in a new situation — She is independent of Parliament, and the English know not how to manage her — To what an extent She will claim a Right of trading with the United States is unknown — Canada too & Nova Scotia are in a new situation, the former, they say, must have a new Government — But what Form to give them, & indeed what kind of Government they are capable of, or would be agreeable to them, is uncertain — Nothing is digested. There is a party, composed probably of Refugees, Friends of the old hostile System, & fomented by Emissaries of several foreign Nations, who do not wish a cordial Reconciliation and sincere friendship between Great Britain and the United States, who clamour for the conservation of the Navigation Act, and the carrying Trade. If these should succeed so far, as to excite Parliament or Ministry to adopt a contracted Principle; to exclude us from the West India Trade, and from Trading with Canada and Nova Scotia, and from carrying freely, in Vessels belonging to any one of the thirteen States, the Productions of any other, to Great Britain, the Consequences may perplex us for a time, may bind us closer to France, Spain, Holland, Germany, Italy & the Northern Nations, and thus be fatal to Great Britain, without being finally very hurtful to us —

The Nations of Europe, who have Islands in the West Indies, have at this moment a delicate part to take — Upon their present decisions, great things will depend. The Commerce of the West India Islands is a part of the American System of Commerce — They can neither do without us, nor We without them — The Creator has placed us upon the Globe in such a situation, that we have Occasion for each other — We have the means of assisting each other,

and/

and Politicians & artificial Contrivances cannot seperate us. Wise Statesmen, like able Artists of every kind, study nature, and their Works are perfect in proportion as they conform to her Laws. Obstinate attempts to prevent the Islands and the Continent, by Force or Policy, from deriving from each other those blessings, which Nature has enabled them to afford, will only put both upon thinking of the means of coming together — And an injudicious Regulation at this time may lay a foundation for intimate Combinations between the Islands and the Continent, which otherwise would not be wished for, or thought of by either —

If the French, Dutch & Danes have common Sense, they will profit of any blunder G. Britain may commit upon this occasion —

The Ideas of the British Cabinet & Merchants at present are so confused, upon all these Subjects, that we can get them to agree to nothing. I still think, that the best Policy of the United States is, to send a Minister to London, to negotiate a Treaty of Commerce, instructed to conclude nothing, not the smallest Article, until he has sent it to Congress, & received their Approbation. In the mean time Congress may admit any British or Irish Ships, that have arrived, or may arrive, to trade as they please —

For my own part, I confess I would not advise Congress to bind themselves to any thing, that is not reasonable & just. If We should agree to renew the trade upon the old footing, it is the utmost that can with a colour of Justice or Modesty be requested of us. This is not equal, but might be borne — Rather than go further, and deny ourselves the Right from the West Indies to Europe, at least to Great Britain, especially rather than give away our own Carrying Trade, by agreeing that the Ships of one State should not carry to Great Britain the Produce of another, I would be for entering into still

closer/

close Connections with France, Spain & Holland, and purchase of them, at the expence of Great Britain, what She has not Wisdom enough to allow us for her own Good —

With great Esteem, I have the honor to be &c:

(Signd) John Adams

Secretary Livingston

Sir

Paris July 14th. 1783.

A jealously of American Ships, Seamen, Carrying Trade, and Naval Power, appears every day more and more conspicuous. This jealousy, which has been all along discovered by the French Ministers, is at length communicated to the English. The following Proclamation, which will not increase British Ships and Seamen, in any proportion as it will diminish those of the United States, will contribute effectually to make America afraid of England, and attach herself more closely to France. The English are the Purse, and must take the Consequences —

This Proclamation is issued in a full Confidence, that the United States have no Confidence in one another: that they cannot agree to act in a Body as one Nation: that they cannot agree upon any Navigation Act, which may be common to the thirteen States. Our proper Remedy would be to confine our Exports to American Ships — To make a Law that no Article should be exported from any of the States in British Ships, nor in the Ships of any

Nation /

Nation, which will not allow us reciprocally to import their productions in our Ships. I am much afraid, there is too good an understanding upon this subject between Versailles & St James's —

Perhaps it may be proper for Congress to be silent upon this head, until New York, Penobscot &c: are evacuated. But I should think that Congress would never bind themselves by any Treaty, built upon such principles. They should negotiate, however, without loss of time, by a Minister in London — a few Weeks delay may have unattended effects —

---(Proclamation omitted)

One of the most remarkable things in this Proclamation is, the omission of Salt Fish, an Article which the Islands want as much as any that is enumerated. This is no doubt to encourage their own Fishery, & that of Nova Scotia, as well as a Blow aimed at ours. There was in a former Proclamation, concerning the trade between the United States and Great Britain, an omission of the Articles of Pot Ash & Pearl Ash. These omissions discover a choice Love for New England. France, I am afraid, will exclude Fish too, and imitate this Proclamation too closely; if indeed this Proclamation is not an imitation of their System, adapted, as I believe it is, upon their advice and desire —

These however are Impotent efforts. Without saying, writing or resolving any thing, suddenly, let us see what Remedies or Equivalents we can obtain from Holland, Portugal, Denmark. Let us bind ourselves to nothing — reserve a right of making Navigation Acts, when we please, if we find them necessary or useful. If we had been defeated of our Fisheries, we should have been wounded out of all our Cumping Trade too, & should have been a mere Society of Cultivators, without any/

carry but a precarious Trade. The Policy of France has succeeded, and laid in these Proclamations, if persisted in, the sure Source of another War between us & Britain

The English Nation is not however unanimous in this new System, as Congress will see by the enclosed Speculations, which I know to have been written by a confidential Friend of my Lord Shelburne, I mean Mr Benjamin Vaughan. Their Minister is very strong in the House of Lords, and Mr. Pitt in the House of Commons has attached to him many Members in the course of this Session. If that Pett should come in again, we shall have a Chance of making an equitable Treaty of Commerce. To this end, a Minister must be ready, and Peace, in Mercy to our Country, that such an opportunity will not be lost by delays, in Complaisance to our Allies —

I have the honour to be &c.

Signd John Adams

Hon.ble R. R. Livingston Esq.
Secretary for Foreign Affairs —

Extract of a Letter as above dated Paris 18th July 1783.

No. II.

We need not fear that France & England will make a common Cause against us, even in relation to the Carrying Trade to & from the West Indies: although they may mutually insure into each other false notions of their Interests at times. Yet there can never be a Concert of operation between them. Mutual & enmity is bred in the blood & bones of both — and Rivals & Enemies at heart they eternally will be — In order to induce both to allow us our natural

right /

right to the carrying Trade, we must negotiate with the Dutch, Danes, Portuguese
Genoese with the Empires; for the more friends & resources we have, the more we
shall be respected by the French & English — and the more freedom of Trade
we enjoy with the Dutch Possessions in America, the more will France and
England find themselves necessitated to allow us —

The present Ministers in England have many head advisers; the
Refugees and Emissaries of various other sorts — and we have nobody to watch,
to counteract, to ~~prevent~~ correct or prevent any thing —

The United States will soon see the necessity of uniting in measures
to counteract their Enemies, and even their friends — What powers Congress should
have for governing the Trade of the whole — for making or recommending
prohibitions or Imposts, deserves the serious Consideration of every Man in
America. If a constitutional, legislative Authority cannot be given them,
a sense of common danger & necessity should give to their Recommendations
all the energy upon the minds of the People, which they had 6 Years ago —

If the Union of the States is not preserved, & even their unity in
many great points, instead of being the happiest People under the Sun, for
I dont know but we may be the most miserable. We shall find our foreign
affairs the most difficult to manage of any of our interests — We shall see —
feel them disturbed by invisible Agents and Causes, by Secret Intrigues, by
dark & mysterious Insinuations, by concealed Corruptions of a thousand sorts,
Hypocrisy & Simulation will assume a million shapes — we shall feel the
evil, without being able to prove the Cause — Those, whose penetrations &

reach/

reach the true source of the evil will be called suspicious, envious, disappointed, ambitious: In short if there is not an Authority sufficiently decisive to draw together the minds, affections & forces of the States in their common foreign & concerns, it appears to me we shall be the sport of trans-atlantic Politicians, of all Denominations, who hate liberty in every shape, and every man who loves it, & every Country that enjoys it. If there is no common Authority, nor any common sense to secure a revenue for the discharge of our engagements abroad for money, what is to become of our honor, our justice, our faith, our Credit, our unmerited, Moral, Political & Commercial Character? If there is no common power to fulfil engagements with our Citizens, to pay our Soldiers & other Creditors, can we have any moral Character at home? Our Country will become the Region of everlasting discontents, reproaches & animosities, and, instead of finding our independence a blessing, we shall soon become [illegible] enough to wish it done away.

I may be thought gloomy; but this ought not to discourage me from laying before Congress my apprehensions. The dependence, of those who have designs upon us, upon our want of affection to each other, & of authority over one another, is so great, that, in my opinion, if the U. S. do not soon shew to the World a proof that they can command a common Revenue; to satisfy their Creditors at home & abroad - that they can act as one people; as one Nation, as one Man in their transactions with foreign Nations, we shall be soon so

far

far despised, that it will be but a few Years, perhaps but a few Months before we are involved in another War — What can I say in Holland, if a doubt is started, whether we can repay the Money we wish to borrow — I must assure them in a tone, that shall exclude all doubt that the Money will be repaid. I am to be hereafter reproached with deceiving the Money lenders? I cannot believe there is a Man in America who would not disdain the Supposition, & therefore I shall not scruple to give the strongest assurances in my power: But, if there is a doubt in Congress, they ought to recall their Borrowers of Money" —

Extracts from the Letters of Thos. Jefferson Minister

Arthur Lee Esq^r

Bordeaux 1 July 1783

Sir

Inclose I transmit you Bill of Loading of Seventeen Packages received for you from Paris which I endeavoured to ship on bound the Ship in which is said Mrs^d Izard but the Vessel was so loaded for account of the Owners it was not possible to get them on bound The Elizabeth Sophia Master for New York has given us the opportunity to embrace that conveyance which I hope will arrive Safe with you, you have also the Account of my advances amounting to five hundred Livres seventeen Sols which you will please to reimburse me at your convenience

I am most respectfully

Sir Your very Hble Servant

John Bondfield

Rec'd Letter

My dear Brother, Chantilly July 6. 1803

When the first Continental ships of war were fitted out at Philadelphia under the command of Commodore Hopkins in the Lad of 1775 & the first of 1776, the first object was, to sur=
=prise and take Lord Dunmore with his Asso=
=ciates then at Norfolk — To effect this purpose the then Marine Committee desired me to write to Colo. Harrison, then a Member of Congress sent to Baltimore for the purpose of executing some business relative to this naval expedition, to desire that he would procure and send to Philadelphia from Virginia two pilots well acquainted with the navigation of the Chesa=
=peake, and men who could be relied upon for their attachment to our cause — Colo. Harrison (the now Governor) made application to Virginia accordingly, in consequence of which

two

P. and L. Mss

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two

two of our best Bay pilots came up to Phil.a
soon after christmas 1775 – Edward Cooper
& Wm Ballard were the men – After waiting
some time in Phil.a for our fleet to get in
readiness, the arrival of the Liverpoole & the
Roebuck into Chesapeake put an end to
that expedition, and the Pilots were dis-
=charged, as they now say, without any
pay – and they do at this time demand pay
from the present Governor – We wish you
to have enquiry made concerning this matter,
and to get the men paid if they have not
already been so – Mr. Mallack was at
that time Clerk of the Marine Committee,
and can inform where the books of that com-
=mittee are, which will shew the circumstance
of these men being sent for & whether they
were paid upon being discharged – Yrs

not improbable that Mr Timothy Matlack gave all these papers to his Successor clerk of the Marine Committee — He was a Mr Brown in my time, and being a man of business he can readily search into this matter & see what was done — The pilots waited some time in Phila & as they say suffered in their respects by this journey — At all events, if they have not been paid, they ought to be reasonably compensated. I am not yet recovered from my Richmond indisposition but I am better, & hope that a proper attention to medicine & regimen will restore me quite

I am your affectionate

brother & friend

Richard Henry Lee

R. H. Lee, to Arthur Lee.

July 6th 1783

Copy Letter (202)

N. 35 202

The Commissrs J. A. B. F. J.

~~London~~ July 18 1783

Their conduct on the 8th could not be guessed did we know all the reasons & circumstances.

The negociation between France Spain & Holland were then in full vigor & embarrassed by a variety of clashing interests. It was therefore necessary for us to conceal the secret Art. Spain acclaimed our territory; & France nursing & supporting it.

We should propose in the definitive treaty the postponing the payment of British debts as recommended by Congress. All captures in any part of the world north of the Canaries one month after signing the Preliminaries are undoubtedly illegal & ought to be restored. We shall speak to Mr Hartley relative to this, as well as giving up the Negroes, which was certainly intended, by the words & meaning of the Article

27 July 1783

None of the Definitive treaties yet concluded. Go on slowly. Since the opening our ports to their ships they seem cool about comml regulations we believe we must give up all thoughts of stipulating any comml regulations but leave them to a future treaty. sign'd. Dft. Jay. Laurens

J. Adams April 14. 1783

23d

June 24 ~~June 28~~ June 27th

Spain & G. B. have settled their treaty & are ready to sign. The present Ministry are unpopular & unwilling to conclude with us. The Shelburne Ministry acted with honor & good sense, & would have concluded with us upon liberal principles. Seem to be the

only men who understand their own Country Dours.
He believes neither France nor England will
allow us to import the produce of their Islands

July 7th 1783
Dr. Sir.

How you could think that we were obliged to com
municate every thing to the french Ministry when
they were not obliged to communicate any thing
of their negotiations to us I cannot conceive.
The french Ministry we knew were doing all
in their power to prevent our having what we
required, had we communicated, they would have
advised us not to sign till they did, & tho
we would have continued, for we have full
conviction that they intended not have signed
if we had not. After what I have seen I
should be a child if I confided in the french, &
a hypocrite to profess it.

Dr Brandt in July 22d 1783

That one Minister would have made a treaty
under the direction of the french Minister as well
as an hundred. Long invective against Mr Adams,
for suspecting the French, closing with this - that
in some things he is absolutely mad. (but by name)

Expects we shall soon have ~~freedom~~ some privileges
of trade with the french Islands

Mr. Adams & Franklin Mr. Jay 18 July 1783

It would give us pain if any thing we have written or now write, respecting this Court should be construed to impeach the friendship of the King & of this nation towards us. We believe too, that the Minister is as far our friend, & so far disposed to do us good offices as may consist with & be dictated by his system of policy for increasing the power, riches & glory of his own country. signed by the above Commissioners & addressed to the Secretary for foreign Affairs.

Letter from the Commrs J. Adams, B. Franklin, J. Jay
18 July 1783

We believe that the Minister of this Majesty is deserving of doing us such good Offices as may consist with his plan for promoting the honor, interest & glory of France.

Extract of a letter from B. Franklin
Dated Paris 22d July 1783.

When the Commercial articles mentioned
in yours of N. 26th was struck out of your
proposed preliminaries by the British
Ministry. the reason given was, that
sundry Acts of Parliament still in
force were against it and must be first
repealed. which I believe was really their
intention: and sundry bills were accor-
dingly brought in for that purpose, but
new Ministers with different principles
succeeding. a Commercial proclamation
totally different from those bills has
lately appeared. I send Enclosed a
Copy of it — we shall try what can
be done in the definitive treaty tow-
ards setting aside. that proclamation
but if it should be persisted in it
will then be a Matter worthy the
attentive consideration of Congress —

whether it will be most prudent to attempt
with additional Regulations (in order to
save the Risque which may possibly lend
to bring on another Quarrel) or to let it
pass without Notice. & leave it to take
care of itself in another Session of Parliament
when the Distress of the West
India Planters who must all pray
much dearer for the produce of their
Estates —

Philadelphia July 22. 1793. 5 Congress.

I ought not however to conceal from you that one of my colleagues is of a very different opinion from me in these matters. He thinks the french Minister is one of the greatest Enemies of our Country, that he would have strengthened our boundaries to prevent the growth of our People, contracted our Territory to obstruct the increase of our Seamen & retained the Posts while ours to keep us divided, that he frequently opposes in our negociations with foreign Courts & offended us during the war the opposition we received only to keep it alive that we might be so much the more weakened by it. That to the ruin of prosperity France is the greatest of Nations, That to be influenced by it, would ruin us. He makes his opinions of this hearing these opinions, ex cathedra publickly sometimes in presence of English Ministers, & speaks of his friendship for Genet which he could produce in proof of them, some however which have yet appeared to me, unless the conversations & letter above mentioned are reckoned such.

If I were not convinced of the real inability of the French Court to furnish the further supplies we asked I should suspect these discourses of a person in his station might have influenced the refusal, but I think they have gone no farther than to occasion a suspicion that we have a party of Antigallicans in America who are not Tories, & consequently to produce some doubt of the continuance of our friendship. As such doubts may have a bad effect, I think we cannot take too much care to remove them, & it is therefore I write this to you on your guard, (believing it my duty, (this I know

that I hazard by it a mortal enmity to caution you respecting the insinuations of this Gentleman against this Court & the instances he supposes of their ill-will to us &c. I take to be as imaginary as I know his fancies to be that Conseil de Vergennes & myself are continually plotting against them & employing the News-writers of Europe to depreciate &c but as Shakespear says Trifles light as Air &c. I am persuaded however that he means well for his Country, is always an honest man, often a wise one, but sometimes & in some things absolutely out of his senses." Yours Copy examined. R. Lee

Comptroller's Office 25 July 1783

Gentlemen

In consequence of your Note of the 11th Inst. I have the pleasure of enclosing you a State of the Account of John Swanwick Esq.r as Receiver of Taxes in the State of Pennsylvania which is the only Receivers Acct. that has been formally examined & finally adjusted at the Treasury, Entries have from time to time, been made in the Books from the Returns of other Receivers by verbal direction from the late Superintendant of Finance, but quarterly Accounts with Vouchers were never presented for examination, which Mr. Swanwick always punctually attended to.

I have the honor
To the Hon.ble the Comm.rs of Sig.d Jno. Milligan
Board of Treasury. Comptroller of the Treas.y

Compared with the Original in the Office of the Board of Treasury — Wm Duer Secy

London July 29th 1783.

Dear Sir

I take the Liberty of sending you a few Copies of what I have been under the Necessity of Printing in defence of my Character, which Mr Towers has endeavoured to blacken. I think you, who have known me Some time, will be somewhat surprised, that I should at this Time of Day be put Under this Necessity — if You was to have known the whole of my Correspondence with Mr Towers & my Conduct towards Him, you would, I am sure, be more surprized that that Gentleman should have shown such an inveterate Malevolence against me. The Part which your old Acquaintance Mr Bridger has in this Transaction is most lamentable. I have done all in my power in the most tender Manner to shew Him his Situation but hitherto without Effect. I am sorry for it, but I cannot and ought not to suffer my Character to be injured for the Sake of any One.

I must beg that you would send one of the Copies to your Brother Mr William Lee — I know not what has passed between Him, Mr Lawrens and Mr Bridger relative to this Affair, but apprehend that He is not fully acquainted with it, as He left England Europe without informing me of his Intentions and Mrs Lee to whom I offered my Services during his Absence, has taken no Notice of my Letter

He will recollect, what passed between us relative to Mr Lawrens having been at Bruxells and will understand why I was dissatisfied with Him; as is mentioned in one of my Letters to Mr Lawrens. recollecting too our various Conversations About Mr Lawrens, He will do me the Justice to declare, that He never considered me as an Enemy to that Gentleman.

I have hitherto acted with some Coolness in this Affair, and will continue to do it to the last Extremity — in doing so I shall follow the dictates of my natural Temper, & the best Advice. I have avoided all Parade of Language in the account given of it; and confined myself to the Correspondence, which has passed between

the Parties, except as to what Mr Lowrens said to me when the referees retired into another room, & we were left alone, in which I trust I am not mistaken. Let the whole therefore speak for itself. If I can secure the esteem of my Friends, I shall be satisfied.

I am

Dear Sir

your most Obedient
Humble Servant & Friend

Edwd. Jennings

The Honble Arthur Lee Esqr.

(No 107) Ed. Jennings to L.
July 29th 1783.

(6 Letters)

(No 107.)

Mr Jennings July 29 1783

No 107.

Sir/ Princeton Aug. 12th 1783

It is three posts since we have had the honor of hearing from your Excellency; which alarms us for your Excellency's health. The Assembly, in the last session, passed a resolution, relative to the Accounts of Mr. Jones, & an instruction to us, which has not been transmitted. We beg it may be forwarded. [illegible] appointed a Commissioner has been [illegible] for settling the Accounts of the U. States that of Virginia. It is a doubt with us whether any such Commissioner has been in the State. Therefore we shall be obliged to your Excellency for information on this subject, whether the Accounts are ready for settling.

Congress have not yet determined on any of the points submitted to them on the part of the State. No advices yet from our Ministers abroad relative to the definitive treaty. Sir Guy Carleton has declined doing any thing till he receives letters of credence, sent to our having been acknowledged by G. B.

The question for adjourning to Philadelphia

after long debate & mature deliberatio
was carried in the negative Six States t
two. We have the honor of enclosing a
Copy of the Yeas & nays on this importan
question. Two of the Ring leaders in
the late mutiny have been
condemned to death by their
Court-martial

Dear Sir Dawsons 19th of August 1782

I was particularly mortified in being out of the way when you passed this [illegible] had the acknowledgment of your favor from Richmond in Person of passing at least a day with you on your road to Congress. I have taken a good deal of pains to inform myself of the political sentiments of this County since our last Session of Assembly, but always resolved to write to you on this subject before I should set out upon our Georgia expedition. and your of the 8th Instant which but just now reached me, has only served to convince me that I was not wrong in such a resolution

I think I may venture to assure you that if you should choose to represent this County at our next Election in preference to serving in Congress under your last appointment you have only to declare that Choice in time and it will be impossible either for Col Grayson or any other Candidate to throw you out. I am indeed authorised by some of Col. Graysons most sincere friends and well wishers to tell you, that having hitherto found you steady in the interests of this County, regular in attendance &c. &c. you have only to make your option and they cannot in Gratitude but prefer you to him and all others. Such are the sentiments of Col Blackburn, with whom

whom I have now the pleasure of [illegible]
Richard Henry Lee and Arthur Lee [illegible]
particular, but [illegible] inform you that you may
all times command my [illegible] but I must confess
that I do not wish [illegible] since
you have Congress [illegible] that I might
[illegible] you are not entitled to a decent bill for your
[illegible] but it is for more than [illegible] this
debt. Remember my dear sir that we [illegible] steps
[illegible] already taken towards [illegible] your honorable
[illegible] in removing from Philadelphia [illegible] last
[illegible] of your independent principles, and that [illegible]
[illegible] liberty that we must look up for [illegible] debt. Upon the
whole all here are convinced that you can be more
[illegible] useful in Congress than in the Virginia [illegible]
bly. and some of your friends have this addition
[illegible] inducement to wish you there, that [illegible] are
[illegible] removed from the [illegible] of the [illegible] counsels
of your Enemies. I am not without hopes that our
[illegible] in speculation may prove [illegible] and some future
day we may be able to draw you after us to the [illegible]
[illegible] every Power [illegible] a Country which will soon be dear
to [illegible] Italy of America, and where your Family had
and cool temper would prove a real Treasure, to
[illegible] who have already shewn that very high regard to
[illegible] and to the [illegible] Minister Plenipotentiary

Mrs Scott is well and presents you with her best wishes. Your Letter to Col. Marshall will reach him in Nine or ten Days. I cannot think you serious about purchasing in or about Dumfries. Believe me fortune has better things in store for you if you do not reject her favors. I have some thoughts of crossing the seas from Charles Town this fall to return with a load of specie and a colony of my Country folk in the Spring for Georgia. In this event I will charge it upon Col. Blackburn to write you a true state of things in that Corner, otherwise you may expect the same from me. The Colonel bids me tell you that he thinks you ought to remain in Congress for the reasons above mentioned & to consider him as one of your very sincere friends and well wishers. he is at present while I am concluding this Letter with sincere assurances that I ever am Dear Sir

Your your most obedt.
and very humble Servt

John Scott

Philadelphia 27.th August 1783.

Dear Sir

As I hear that you are Chair man of a Committee appointed for the purpose of enquiring into the breach of the law of Nations Committed by Messieurs Church and Haydon in the Capturing of the Brig S.t Antonio and offering other insults to his Majesty's flag, I take the liberty to request that you will pay a speedy and particular attention to that affair, as my Court are extremely anxious for the determination of Congress upon it and will even tax me with neglect Should it be delayed much longer. If you should want any particular information about it our friend Col.° Bland will I am sure give it you with great pleasure as he is minutely informed of every particular respecting it. You will oblige me greatly by letting me Know the decision of Congress as soon as they shall have resolved upon it, I make no doubt but it will be consistent with that sacred regard with they have shewn to the laws of Nations on every other occasion.

I have the honor to be Sir with great respect & Esteem your most obed.t humb.le Serv.t

Francisco Rendon

The Honble.
Arthur Lee Esq.r

Portsmouth 16th Sept. 1786

My Dear Jenny

I am Honoured with Your two favors of the 1st & 7th July & shod long ago have acknowledged the receipt of them had not my absence on a long Journy prevented their coming to my hands till very lately.

You may be assured Sir that as it will always afford me great pleasure to be instrumental in promoting the interest of any of Your Family I shall embrace every opportunity to recommend Your Son to such of my acquaintance as have business to transact in Your Country.

The Opinions here respecting the Address of Congress are various. Our Assembly have not yet adopted the measures recommended, but I have some expectations that they will at their next Session which is in Octr The local circumstances of this State points out the necessity of the measure, & tho' I always pay the greatest deference to Your judgment, I do not see the danger of placing such funds in the hands of Congress, under proper restrictions for a limited time on the other hand, is it not doing of this sort necessary to cement the Union on which the well being of America so much depends? it appears to me that a great revenue shod be raised on foreign trade, & if this Days is not under some general regulation quarels will surely arise which will at least

endanger if not totally destroy the Union

However you & I may differ in opinion as to the Means I am sure we have the same great object in view, the good of our common Country. This being the basis on which our Friendship is built, I trust it will not easily be shaken. I am therefore with the greatest confidence assure you of the unceasing Esteem & respect of Your very affectionate Friend

& most obt. Sert

Wm Whipple

Hon.ble R H Lee Esq.r

The Honorable

Richard Henry Lee Esq

at Chantilly

Northern Neck

Virginia

Bordeaux 20 Sept 1783

Arthur Lee Esq

Sir

This wile I hope find you relieved from the Anxiety which arose from the sudden suspention of the Operations of War. I congratulate you on the firm resolve of your State which we have this day received without some Act of that Nature you would have had all the Hungry Wolves of Glasgow perpetually hanging on the tatterd remains of your property you wile by that means have time to breath and what legal demands can be made time must settle

I have been unfortunately conected with the House of Price & Hayward whose inexperience & heedstrong conduct has dissipated a most Capital fortune, I have engagements here on Act of my Concerns with them for near One hundred Thousand Livres more than I have received for which I must be obliged to pay unless I can recover out of the

Debts due us to discharge that Sum in order
to get possession of Hands to answer my advance
I have given to a House in this City a Bond or
Contract d'Obligation and have engaged them to
send over to America a Power of Attorney to
Attatch such Obligations Notes & Debts as are
due to us from the Voyage made by our two
Ships to America of which the State of Virginia
Stands Indebted for £2960 Tournois for freight of
Goods shipt by your order for their account
with Interest from april 1780 making a Sum of
upwards of 50000ᵗ, permit me to request you will be
assistant to Mr John Dickinson who is charged with
the Power of my Freinds Messrs Montet & Henry that he
may attain the same he has full powers to give due
& sufficient discharges for that purpose acting as a
Creditor to Bond Jun & Haywood I am obliged to this
disagreable alternative to recover wherewith to reimburse
my advances the produce of which Price & Haywood
have retained in their possession and left me to discharge
the engagements as I could, as the possession of the

Debt due to by the State interests me much
that Mr. Dickinson receive I pray your friendly
offices to that purpose
with assurance I am
Sir
Your very Obt Servt
John Bondfield

Charleston October 14th 1783

Dear Sir

I have but this moment received the letter you did me the honor to write me the 16th of last month.

The removal of Congress from Philadelphia gave me great pleasure, and I hope they never will return to that City. I perfectly agree with you, that the present is a very critical and important moment for our Country, and that the co-operation of honest and experienced men is requisite to prevent the growth

of

of political corruption; which if not speedily and effectually checked may soon arrive to such a state of maturity as to defy all opposition.

I am glad to hear of the judgement obtained in your favor against M^r Deane, and am highly pleased with the opportunity of transmitting to you a testimonial of my approbation of your conduct during my residence in France, and which I hope will answer the purpose of counteracting the defamation of M^r Deane's friends.

I am flattered by your wish to see me in Congress. I was particularly solicited to be a Delegate last year

but

that I had reasons which obliged me expressly to refuse the nomination, and as I see no prospect of the removal of my objections, I cannot give you any cause to expect me in Congress before the expiration of your term.

I have the honor to be very respectfully

Dear Sir

Your most Obed.t Serv.t

John Lloyd

1783

(5)

Extract from a Letter dated Office of Finance
28th July 1783 to the Hon. Robert Morris.

Your Excy will easily conceive the situation to which I am driven, when I am compelled to withhold assent to a moderate demand of the Secretary at war for Cloaths & Magazines to preserve the public Stores. It is certainly of importance that Arsenals should be erected in such proper places as to provide for the publick defence. But the reasons against advancing Money are uncontrovertible Congress know the extent of any engagements for the discharging of which they have solemnly pledged themselves. Congress know also that the States do not furnish means. They will perceive, therefore that I should wantonly sacrifice their honor & dignity should I form new engagements before the old are satisfyed.

15 Oct 1783

Robert Morris Superintendant of finance to
Th.s Tillotson Receiver for the State of N. York
15 Oct.r 1783 — I have received your favor. of the
Instant & am not much surpris'd, & as you will
easily conceive, not much pleas'd with the Reflections
contain'd in it. Clamors against poor Tories
form an easier testimony of Phiggism than the
vigorous pursuit of continental measures."

58

1783

(57)

Extract from a Letter dated Office of Finance
28th July 1783 signed Robert Morris.

Your Exc.y will easily conceive the situation
to which I am driven, when I am compelled to with-
hold assent to a moderate demand of the Secretary at
war for Buildings & Magazines to preserve the public
Stores. It is certainly of importance that Arsenals
should be erected in such proper places as to pro-
vide for the publick defence. But the reasons
against advancing Money are unconvertible
Congress know the extent of my engagements
for the discharging of which they have solemn
ly pledged themselves. Congress know also
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Mr Tillotson Receiver for the State of N. York
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[illegible] I am not much surprised, as you will
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form an easier testimony of Whiggism than the
vigorous pursuit of continental measures."

58

Arthur Lee Esqr

Chantity on Rapahanoc Virginia

Bordeaux 20 Octo 1785

Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 23 march and am obliged to you for your different advices ——— I requested your interposition in the affair of the State Debt for the freight of goods by our Ships I have been so villanously treated by Haywood & his partner Price two errant R—s that I am distract to find ways & means to oblige Haywood to come to a settlement or to obtain from them to discharge the engagements I entred into in Company with Haywood who with his partner Price have got in possession all the proceeds and oblige me to pay once them in America. Messrs Nelson Herron & Co of Richmond I have impowered to endeavour to secure from Haywood the amount of one hundred & fifty thousand Livres that I am in advance for them Concerns — Haywood has bought a considerable Estate in Virginia formerly belonging to Carter Braxton on York River I hope by that means to secure the greatest part if not the whole of my Debt —

Messrs Cheurieux & Dobrée have remitted me on your Account £638.16.8 which I have past to your Credit

I wrote to your Bro. Mr H Hd of Bracket he made me a remittance of £62 11/ in M Digg draft on Waterman of London which has been returnd protested for nonpayment

By our Commercial advices from your Continent fear branches offer to engage Speculation consiquently fair adventures which will give time for the Inabundance of European manufactures to find a Vente — the present Stagnation may possibly turn to advantage by diverting the Commercial Spirit to Improvement thro all the States, and engage all the Sword as well as back Settlers to give their attention to internal Domestick Improvements. The United States can subsist without many European products. Trade can only influence to form evergreen fortunes which by forming family Alliances in the same parity of Condition insensibly acquire influence to carry by pursue measures to the prejudice of the Constitution let foreigners carry on your splendid Commerce the European Nations are forced to pursue every ways & means to increase their National Treasure to provide for the exorbitant Abuses that have crept into every Department from the Crown to ye Cyprus America by her local having nothing to apprehend by

a permanent good Constitution wile by natural progress attain every degree of Population Arts & Sciences requisit to form the greatest Empire the present Generation wile desire to continue the present enjoyments which their foreign intercourse introduced. the Succeeding race wile have but faint Idear. Men of Letters & publick Societies will continue to correspond with each Other. whatever can lead to form good morals & humanize the mind will be propagated by the publick Colledges established more for Political Useful attainments than from prejudiced Dogmas & fanatick principles Strange als precist Creed every Minister to be an honest just virtuous Citizen divested of every Consideration but what should ensue from his good qualities no Bishops or heads independant of the Grand Council you are not Clogg'd with Bramas. Lamas or any of the imposing Reptils to which the Eastern Monarchies have ever been subservient & a prey to the interior feuds created by their Machinations you have your Alpha to which may be confined all the Sublime Doctrins of your teachers. I sincerely wish to be amongst you seated on some convenient

convenient Spot where application & labour might oblige me to enjoy Natural benefits Strangers to the Luxury of our habits. but tied by a succession that look up to me for their future well being I am forced to pursue a Career I would freely change for one much less Eclatante——

The Algerine Cruise with extraordinary Vigilance against the Americans— M. Carmichael is at Madrid. you have Gardoqui with you entre nous les deux Spaniards ont fait des Choux Bouillis——

we wish to learn that your finances may attain a degre of Stability and that you may see your Recette excede your depense so as to form a Caisse to discharge the Debts contracted in the Support of your glorious revolution

I shall on all occasions esteem the honor of hearing from you and am Respectfully

Yr. Yours Obt. Servt.

John Bondfield

We have before us the two
letters with which your Excellency honor
us the 4th & 12th of this month. Their
Inclosures have been laid before you
& are referred for reports ~~which~~ ~~we~~
~~will determine~~ We shall make
due inquiry after the French Officer &
endeavor to retrieve the affair he
carried off

We have the pleasure to inform
intelligence has been received of the treaty
your Excellency that the Preliminaries
of Peace were signed at New York the 21st
which is the day appointed for the
evacuation of that place. But for-
ward have received no advices
of it from their Ministers in Europe

We do not know any colour
of reason for the report you
mention relative to Gen.
Commander in Chief. On the
contrary we believe that
his popularity like his merit
have not suffered the smallest
diminution.

You were very right worthy Sr in deeming it for granted that I was absent when former packets sailed to waive the Rect of yours of the 16th & 18th September which were a long while a coming, absent I was indeed for I had been 14 days confined to my Bed when they reached this and was for a month unfit for any business proceeding from my Usual reception I met with from Mr Cummins that brought on a very severe attack of my Obstructions, am now afloat and doing well again and be assured that I regret I could not sooner attend to your Request, ~~and~~ Inclosed you will be pleased to accept of the Original Letter I wrote my friends here just as you was leaving Europe for America. it contains my clear and candid Opinion on some mens conduct. the place Congress has agreed on for their place of Residence seems to give general Satisfaction here, indeed at the last meeting of our Assembly in August it was Unanimously agreed that our Delegates should be instructed to vote for the Removal of Congress to Annapolis only, perhaps they were unacquainted with that Resolve - Philadelphia has long been deemed a very improper place and it appears to me that some designing men had too much influence there not used for the good of their Country - this Resolve may check it somewhat, but whilst men of R. Morris's principles hold the purse Strings of America I foresee little justice will be done to the brave Soldier or the Public creditors, he appears too deeply connected all over the Continent with Speculation, mercenary Characters not to avail himself of the Opportunity that offers preferring his own Interest to that of the Publicks and it has been my fixed Opinion (since I was present at his Declarations in '76 & '77) that whilst he could be Useful to himself and Party he would hold Public Posts, if not, he would Retire at a moment when things were there ripe brought into an Irreparable State of confusion, behold his Conduct at this late Threat of Resigning, and now I should not be astonished to hear of his taking pains to be turned out. his Character is well known in those Hyperborean Southern States, so much so, that I verily believe had the 5 per Cent Acts as Congress proposed been agreed to, it would have been attended with this Exception not to be Remitted to Congress whilst such a Man as R. M. was to have the handling of it, he reminds me of the Story of trying Stinking fish first or he has lately wrote a Letter to our Governor trying to acquit himself of what he apprehends some may accuse him with in our next House, it will afford scope and likely produce some Public Remarks, sundry Publications have appeared here with very just remarks, and authentic Documents will

You were very right worthy Sir in taking it for granted that I was absent when former packets sailed to answer the Lett.r of yours of the 16th & 18th September which were a long while a coming, absent I was indeed for I had been 14 days confined to my Bed when they reached this and was for a month unfit for any business proceeding from my Usual Reception I met with from Mr. Stimmel that brought on a very Severe attack of my Obstructions, am now afloat and doing well again and be assured that I regret I could not sooner attend to your Request, Inclosed you will be pleased to accept of the Original Letter I wrote my friends here just as you was leaving Europe for America. it contains my clear and candid Opinion on some mens conduct. the place Congress has agreed on for their place of Residence seems to give general Satisfaction here, indeed at the last meeting of our Assembly in August it was Unanimously agreed that our Delegates should be instructed to vote for the Removal of Congress to Annapolis only, perhaps they were unacquainted with that Resolve - Philadelphia has long been deemed a very improper place and it appears to me that some designing men had too much influance there not used for the good of their Country - this Resolve may check it somewhat, but whilst men of R. Morris's principles hold the purse strings of America I foresee little justice will be done to the brave Soldier or the Public creditors, he appears too deeply connected all over the Continent with Speculative, mercenary Characters not to avail himself of the Opportunity that offers preferring his own Interest to that of the Publicks and it has been my fixed Opinion (since I was present at his declarations in '76 & '77) that whilst he could be Useful to himself and Party he would hold Public Posts, if not, he would retire at a moment when things were there pushed brought into an irreparable state of confusion, behold his conduct at his late Threat of Resigning, and now should not be astonished to hear of his taking pains to be turned out. his Character is well known in those three Southern States, so much so, that I verily believe had the Impudent Acts as Congress proposed been agreed to, it would have been attended with this Exception not to be Remitted to Congress whilst such a Man as R. M. was to have the handling of it, he reminds me of the Story of trying Stocking fish first or he has lately wrote a Letter to our Governor trying to acquit himself of what he apprehends some may accuse him with in our next House, it will afford scope and likely produce some Public remarks, sundry Publications have appeared here with very just remarks, and authentic documents will

always be omitted a place in some of our Gazette, it was declared in our last House that in March, April & May, large sums had been borrowed on the Loan in Holland, that Mr. H. had drawn before that for large sums on the Agents there, that he had also ordered Remittences from there to M.Guard. There are few, very few advocates for base Plundering Characters with us we revere the Man who is true to his Countries cause and we condemn the Man who is not, and all this without intermixing Personality

I conceive it the duty of every Republican to keep a watchfull Eye on every Public Servants conduct and to be particularly Vigilent over those who hold the Purse strings, and if found faulty to bring them to a Proper Punishment to be held up as an Example but not to gratify private Resentment yet that is the channel through which such Miscreants may be drawn forth to a Personal & private Pique, but many suppose that in this instance it is not necessary to apprehend that Consequence, as the vote must be said proof of Error to every mind who is not swayed from Conviction by Participation, —

Friend Lloyd is here and hearty but how far it will suit him to accompany you cannot say, for most men who have been Absent years are employed in saving as much from the Wreck as Possible. That has been my case also, Yet the Summers are too much for me here and may cause me to make an excursion somewhere I wished much to have done it this last Summer, but it was very necessary that I was at hand, whilst Blinking ministers and petty Clerks were making Changes that have had no other effect here but to disgrace them, and the last one was that the South Carolina was sold to the British, in as much as the Charge was yet wile you believe it, they found one Man here and only One to aid them in their dirty work, the State felt insulted, injured and the House came into a spirited and firm resolve "That the French minister be requested to furnish the Delegates of this State with every proof in his Power to support the Allegation of the Ship having been sold to the English, the Honor of the State requiring a full investigation of that Charge and that the Delegates be directed to Examine fully into the Charge and transmit the same to the Governor to be laid before the General Assembly." but Messrs Burrows and Reed have each a Copy of the whole resolves of the 18th August last on my business which they will shew you whenever you require it, Lately our Governor has received a Letter from said Chevalier de Luzerne, concluding by observing that his former Letter was not meant to offend any person nor to accuse any one and therefore requests no such Construction on his former Letter, how pretty will those two Letters read in one Gazette

were a few remarks. yet my good friend how strong does not Innocence
fuel itself I said and did the Needfull and the dust in Some Charges
were made a very little while after the Confidence of my Fellow Citizens
poured forth afresh and I was Elected Lieutenant Governor of this
State a Post which I declined Accepting after taking 8 days to Con-
sider thereon, he that wishes not to Sail too low must not climb too
high I now retain my Seat in the Assembly and in Council and
have nothing to do with the Chancery Cases— Thanks to you for
yours of the 30th past I allways Suspected that Boo was acting be-
hind the Curtain, what a Despicable Tool have not they selected for
an Attorney. Pope he will shew his fitness of beauty here soon as in
January I hope to close my Accounts— Monthswould I Spend to
get at the Junto's knot of Villainy to the Public but I apprehend their
Plunder has been too great not to have bought Partizans to git,
first unship them all and then produce the facts that can be
Mustered, I see no Necessity for a Financier now, three or five
Commissioners of a Treasury to be Established where Congress Resi-
having a Salary of three or five hundred Guineas each, not to
Trade and other Restrictions would do much better—
I shall write you again when better and am with Real
Regard Your Affectionate Friend

Richd. Caswell

Hillsborough North Carolina 29th Oct. 1783

Hble Nathan Lee Esqr

Dear Sir

Boston Nov.r 1783

We are anxiously waiting to hear the Sense of Congress for their temporary abode — should their desire to conciliate, carry them to Philadelphia, I fear they will not easily get them again, the Bayonet will not probably be used, again to drive them out, & nothing short of the Bayonet, I suspect, will overbalance the many allurements, that will be thrown in the way of the members, to retain them — The Legislature of this State, have adopted the Impost, nearly upon the principles of Congress, they are however not in a temper, favorable to the views of the great men of this party — their Jealousy and their fears are roused, & they seem in earnest to have determined, upon more Vigilance in future — their Impost Act, is accompanied with a Remonstrance to Congress & Instructions to their Delegates — they have complained of the Power of Congress, in enabling the number of the public Creditors, & increasing the funded Debt, by transferring many large Debts, & a vast number of Creditors, from particular Funds or Taxes, which were appropriated to their use & which remain yet uncollected, to the funded Debt for their security — this is considered here, as subverting the very first principles of public Credit, & tending to ruin all faith in public promises & solemn appropriations, & in my point of view alarming. This language therefore on this subject, I am told, is very plain & manly — & some say, that if this line of Conduct should be persisted by Congress, they will destroy the public Credit, much faster than the States can possibly establish it — if the public Creditors can not depend, upon the solemn promises of Congress, upon the grant & appropriations of the States in obedience to the Requisitions of Congress, is it not very idle to talk so much about public faith & national Character &c.a — & yet, in their recommendations to the States, Congress have furnished us with three instances, of the most wanton & flagrant breaches of public faith — perhaps great good from similar remonstrances from other States would result — Congress ought to know, that the same general principles should be attended to, as are found necessary in the Individual States — it is the opinion in this State, that your Treasury must be new arranged & the powers now

vested

vested in that Office greatly abridged — Our Delegates are now instructed to urge for a new arrangement of that Department & if two or three more States would give similar Instructions, I should hope that Mr. P— r must give up the Reins I fear —

I find that the most scandalous Conduct has been practiced in the marine Department, very large sums have been spended upon the public Ships & then they have been urged to sell them. The Ship Hague has had £3600 — laid out upon her, & she compleatly fitted for the Sea, before she was put up for Sale — she sold for £3100 only, because eight days only was allowed for payment, the public therefore lose the Ship as she came in from Sea & £500 besides — nearly the same thing has happened as to the Bombay, the public do not in that case get so much for the Ships as has been expended upon her since the Peace — the reason of all this is very plain, when We attend to the Terms of Sale, & the Persons who have purchased them — Merrit Agents purchased both of these Ships, Mr. Russell bought the Hague & Mr. D. Parker the Bombay — this Conduct is so very extraordinary as to require a particular explanation — I left with Mr. Hawkins, who was upon the Committee to examine into the marine Department with me, a Report, requiring the particular Amounts of each Ships, shewing the Prizes each Ship or Prizes, & the advantages that accrued to the public therefrom, with the time, place & in whose hands the property has been deposited & how it has been disposed of — I got the Papers necessary to report but two or three days before I came away, I drew up a Report & gave it to Mr. Hawkins who promised to deliver it — this information appears the more necessary, as no Credit has been given for the Ships Prizes, though many Prizes have been sent into this only & some valuable ones, & 25,000 dollars are charged in two years to that Department

The Terms of Sale for Prizes as well as the Ships themselves, have been intentionally such, as to prevent private Gentlemen from having any of them at the cheapest rate that has been refused to the first men in point of property, by which means, Merchants & this Commission, have had them at their own price; but the public has had no Credit for them, nor do I suppose that they have been paid for to this day — What you may be able to make a successful opposition to the Jews is the most earnest Wish of your most humble Servt

J. H.

It is here pretended that the Agent bought the Ship Hague, on account of her being sold so very low for the public, but that on application to them to augment the Sum they declined having her again, therefore remaining to this Ship at less than [illegible]

In the house of Delegates December 25th 1783

Resolved that the Governor transmit to the Executive authority of the respective States the act to authorize the United States in Congress assembled to make certain regulations respecting the British Trade and request their immediate attention thereto by the adoption of similar measures. That he also transmit to the Delegates of this State to the United States in Congress assembled the said act and the act empowering Congress to lay an impost & empowering the Delegates to enter into a compact the cession of this State to the territory northwest of the river Ohio

Agreed to by us John Beckley Clk.

Senate 26th Dec. 1783

A Draw C.S.

Copy

but our misfortune is, that while we are in the infancy of national Life, our manners are those of an old corrupted monarchy. Visible taxes, in opposition to what are called imperceptible, tend to make the subject watchful as to the expenditures: but warm Republicans forget to add in their Newspaper Writings, that they also tend to create a thousand evasions of payment till the last possible moment. Where there is a warm heart prompting the Republican to provide for the support of Government, by contriving as industriously to raise his Tax Money, as to pay his Tavern Bill and such like demands, I shall plead for visible taxation. But is such the disposition of the Citizens of the United States at this period. Brokers publicly advertize to purchase consolidated Soldiers pay. Quarter Masters, Commissarys and Paymasters Certificates. And those who by non payment of Taxes have created the necessity of those Notes & Certificates are purchasing the first at 6/8 p^r £, and the others at various discounts.

From Richard Henry Lee to Hon^{ble} Gen^l Whipple

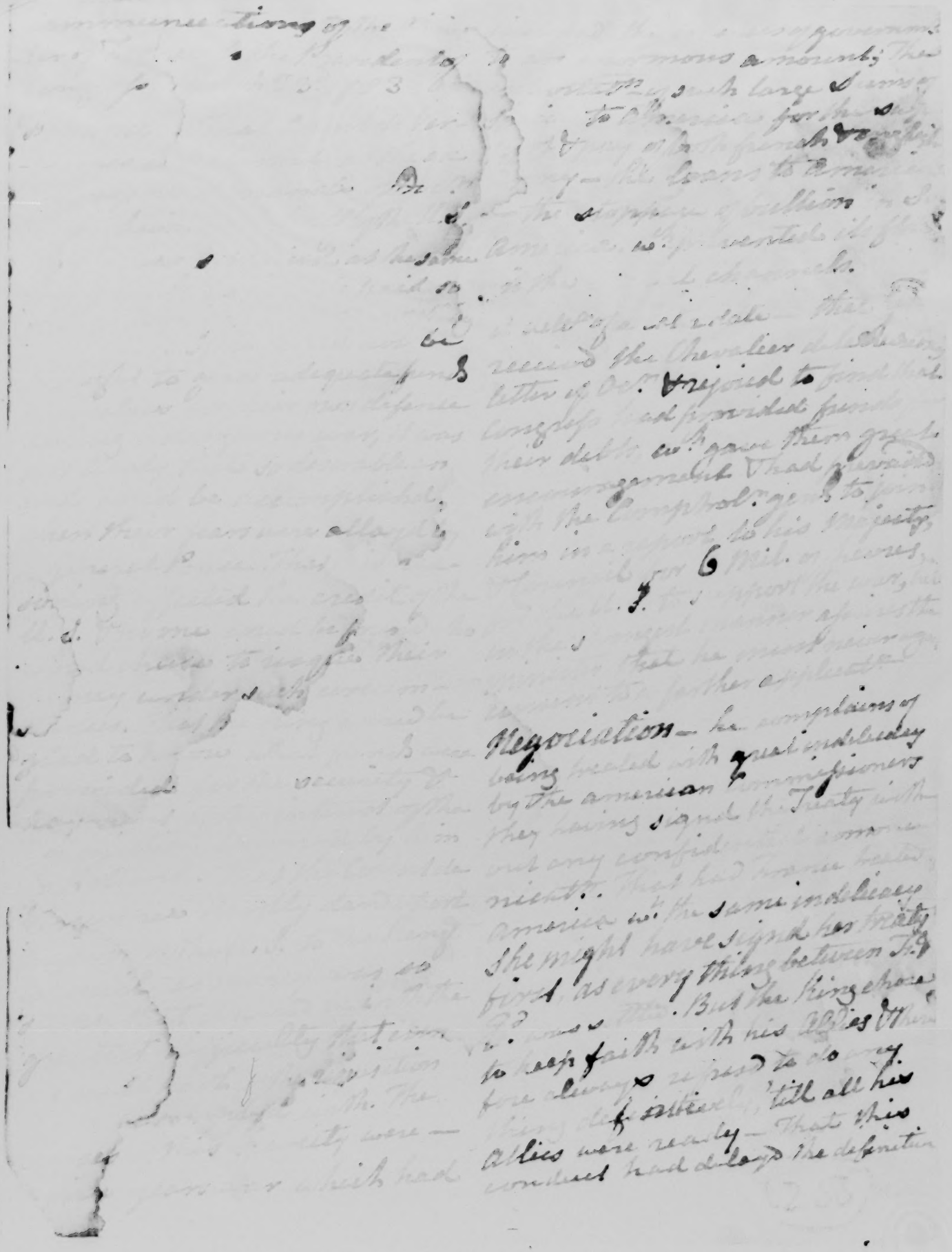
Dated. 1783

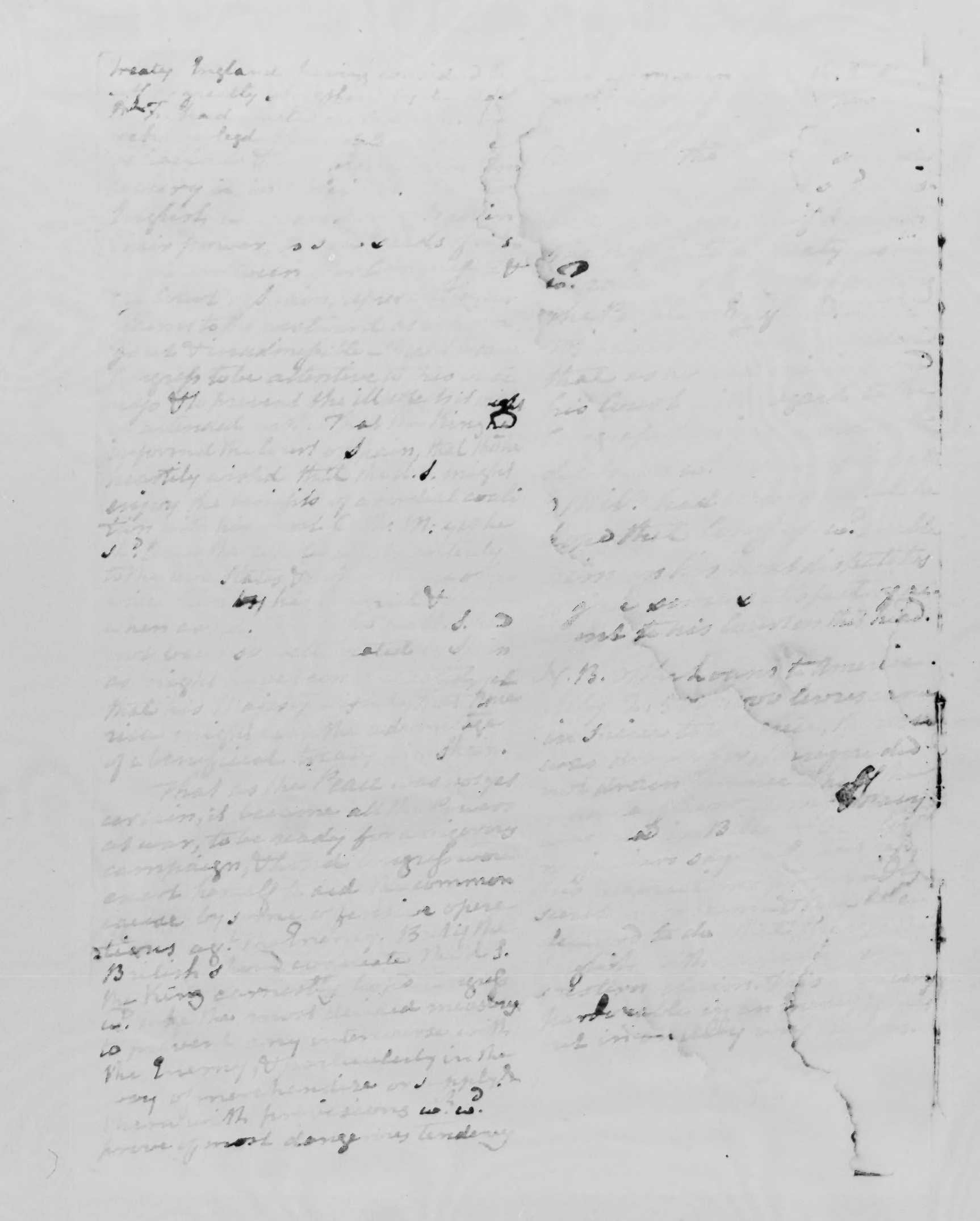
What think you of the late Address of Congress to the States on the subject of the 5 p^r Cent impost?
To me it seems, and I am sorry to be compelled to think so, a too early and too strong attempt to overleap those

those fences, established by the Confederation to secure the Liberties of the respective States. When the possession of power creates, as it too frequently does, a thirst for more, plausible arguments are seldom wanting to persuade acquiescence. Thus the excellent plan of the Confederation which leaves the apportioned sum "to be laid and levied by the authority of the Legislatures of the several states &c" is to be gradually sapped and the all important power of the purse, vested (under arguments, some only of which are plausible) in an Aristocratic Assembly. For, give the purse, & the sword will follow, and with these the wheel of rotation so much relied on, will presently be trashed, to use the phrase of M^r Harrington, and that liberty which we love and now deserve, will become an empty Name. Let us be cautious how we introduce such radical defects into our system, as may furnish the most distant pretext for foreign troops to interpose in favor of Government against the people, as hath lately happened in Geneva! So long as the question shall be for increasing the power of Congress, I would answer with the change of a word only, as the discerning men of old did, when the Imperial Law was proposed to be introduced upon the ruins of the Common Law. "Nolumus leges Confederationis mutare".

The General Assembly of this State adjourned the other day, without adopting the plan of Congress

proposed in the address. But in their Law for appro-
-priating the Public Revenue, they have appropriated
from the Land & Slave Taxes 400,000 Dollars
annually for the Treasury of the United States, which
is the Sum demanded of us by the address.





To remind Mr Pickering
the instruction to Mr
Adams relative to the
Territory to be ceded to
the British take in a
great part of the best
of the Mr. Country.
that a great mistake
was made and that
the best part of the
County for Markets
& shipping will be
given up

Mr Dana of the same opinion with regard to Russia.

France espoused the claims of the Swiss selling annuities & having their property restored, & supported their demands on the part of G. B. w.h a view of keeping up the ties of friendship among us.

as from the Baltic & from the Low Countries sent by Secretary Pickering privately to Mr Gallatin for that purpose, Mr Jay seems to have thought it unnecessary to consult him.

Mr Gallatin observed that the Court of France would be glad to make peace & obtain an Indemnification for the losses sustained by the Swiss in consequence of the Revolution.

Dear Sir, Chantilly January 8th 1784.

I have duly received the Letter that you were pleased to favor me with on the 16th of December last and I am very sensible of your kind sentiments respecting my health. I am indeed restored beyond my expectations, but yet I am by far from being so circumstanced as to form hopes of being soon in a state to venture again on the stormy sea of politics & public business. For I believe, feel more sensibly than myself, how much our unhappy country suffers, and is likely to suffer from the want of those qualities, and such conduct, as is certainly indispensable to the success and wellbeing of Society. It would seem that such feelings are natural to a man who has the misfortune to see his country likely to lose those blessings of liberty that he has so long and so zealously labored to secure for it.

You do me much honor in asking my sentiments concerning the great Congressional questions that are stated. They are of much consequence, no doubt, and I heartily wish that they may finally receive proper determinations. You are perfectly right, Sir, in your observation concerning the consequence of a standing army — that it has constantly terminated in the destruction of liberty. It has not only been constantly so, but I think it clear from the constitution of human nature that it will always be so. And it is really unfortunate for human kind that the safety, and happiness, that so many blessings of government are ever at hand to support a system which so much endangers [illegible]

prove to be productive of the greatest of human evils, Slavery—
But it may well be questioned, why, to avoid possible ills, should we
adopt measures which in their nature produce the highest evil?
The spirit of the 4th section of the 6th article of the Confederation
plainly discourages the idea of a standing army, by the special
injunctions concerning a well regulated militia, which is indeed
the best defence, and only proper security for a free people to venture
upon. To guard our frontiers from Indian invasion, to prevent
irregular settlements, and to secure the possessions of foreign powers
from the encroachments of our people, which may involve foreign
or indian wars, seem to be the reasons assigned for the adoption
of this mischief working system, a standing military force. But
surely it is the business of other powers to secure their own possess-
ions and punish the violators of them. And it would be as new
as it would be improper to keep a standing army to prevent the
encroachments of our own citizens upon foreign states. It will
ever be sufficient to disavow such proceedings, punish the offenders and to
C. give the Culprits up to justice, or punish them ourselves. As to the
protection of our own frontiers, it would seem best to leave it
to the people themselves, as hath ever been the case, and if at
any time the frontiermen should be too hard pressed, they
may be assisted by the midland militia. This will always
secure to us a hardy set of men on the frontiers, used to arms,
and ready to assail against invasions on other parts. Whereas,
if they are protected by regulars, security will necessarily produce
inattention to arms: and the whole of our people, becoming
disused to war, render the force of a standing army
necessary. In this light the Indians may be considered as a
useful people, as it is surely fortunate for a free community
to be under some necessity of keeping the whole body acquainted
with the use of Arms.

Should the fear of Indians, in some measure, check the settlement of that country, it can be no inconvenience to a people already inhabiting much too thinly the Land that they possess. Irregular Settlers, I think, may be kept away by timely and judicious proclamations of Congress forbidding such settlements, and declaring that no Titles shall ever be given to such settlers. and perhaps, also, by having a few persons near the Scene, authorised to give notice of this to all Goers there upon their first appearance. But at last, the horrid evil of a standing army must be encountered, if it is clear to me that such forces had better be placed in fortifications judiciously chosen, to give protection to our own commerce & that of foreigners. But I must confess that I would infinitely rather see this last valuable purpose effected by the more safe, and more effectual measure of a Navy, which I sincerely hope, will be the constant unremitting object of Congress's attention. And both the building and manning of this Navy should be, as much as possible, diffused throughout the 13 States. With respect to Trade, its combinations are so many & so various, that it is not easy to say much with propriety on that subject, hastily. + One sentiment respecting it admits not of much doubt — it is, that the free nature & genius of commerce abhors and shuns restraint, and that in young commercial States, to embarrass Trade with heavy imposts or other clogs, is effectually to demolish it. How grievously do I lament that this is fully & fatally the case in our unfortunate country. In our actual circumstances it is difficult

[redacted] to

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to meet and check effectually the illiberal commercial conduct
of the European States, which seems to be by counter and re-
=-taliation restraints - but the want of men & vessels for the
purpose of our own transportation renders this difficulty, if
not impossible, at present. A wise attention to the raising
of seamen and building of ships may in time cause those
States to repent their selfish policy. It appears to me that
Congress would do well to recommend strongly to the
different Legislatures the adoption of every legal means
and encouragement for raising seamen. It is a most
important object, and much too much neglected. Do you
not think that it would be well for Congress to regulate
and bring to uniformity the business of weights and
measures throughout the U. States, and also to establish
a uniformity in the value of Coins of all sorts? Our
country is in particular, is suffering a great loss for want
of the latter regulation. My respects, if you please, to your
Colleague, Mr. Hardy and tell him that I shall be very happy
to receive a Line from him now & then when he can spare her-
=-self. + I will thank you much for procuring for me
the Constitutions of the respective States, as they are
collected & published in one pocket Volume.

I am, dear Sir, with much esteem
and regard, your most obedient & very humble
Servant

Richard Henry Lee

P. S. If the Danes & Dutch have not gone upon the plan
of England & France to prohibit from bringing Indian Goods

home in our own bottoms, & will not be well to buy if these more liberal States can be prevailed with to establish Free ports in their Islands, thro which the Trade, both with the British & French Islands may be carried on, to the entire defeating of their selfish policy &c. R. H. Lee

His Excellency The President of Congress

Office of Finance 13 Jan.y 1784

Sir

1784

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The Secretary of Congress has transmitted to me the petition of John Cowper with an order to report thereon. I must on this occasion pray leave to observe that this with a variety of other similar transactions depends on the adjustment of Accounts of the secret & commercial Committees of Congress. In a letter of the 12th of August last, I had the honor to observe that these Accounts "were far from being inconsiderable either as to their nature or magnitude. That they were involved with others that extended themselves to different parts of the U. S. & to Europe & the W. Indies. That they were more connected with the marine Accounts than with any others. and that the settlement of them was highly necessary. I took the liberty also to suggest the propriety of submitting the investigation of these Accounts to the Commissioner for settling the marine Accounts, or of appointing a special commissioner for that express purpose.

Since writing that letter, the commissioner on the marine Accts having been obliged in the course of his business to look at the commercial Committee Accts has not only discover

some balances due the U. S. but has reported other matters which shew in a strong point of light the necessity of examining & settling those accounts. I think they could be more easily, speedily & effectually settled by that gentleman than by any other, & therefor the submitting of them to him might be eligible in an oeconomical point of view

I come now, Sir, to observe, which I am sorry to do, that my report on Mr Cowpers case, must necessarily be suspended till after a reference to the commissioner to be appointed to adjust the accounts of the secret & commercial Committees, I shall be possessed of such a state of facts as will enable me to report with propriety.

Before I close this letter, I must also observe that as the accounts in question originated with those under the Superintendance of Members of Congress it is a kind of duty which Congress in their political capacity owe to themselves to trace the applications of money thro those channels with the same attention which has been very properly applied to other publick expenditures.

Sign'd Robert Morris

Paris Le 29 - xmbre 1784

my dear friend

I hope that Mr le Major Lenfant will pardon the liberty that I take in writing to him, as I have had the honour of writing to him since he left this city. I have several times called at his lodgings to see him, but have not been able to find him at home. You know the difficulty that there is in finding any person in this City.

I imagine that you may remember that I mentioned to you particularly that my health was very much impaired, and that I was under apprehensions that the disorder might prove fatal. I am happy to find that it is not so dangerous as I had reason to fear it was, but my dear Sir, why did you not inform me that your trunks were not packed for a long voyage? I should have had them properly secured, and taken such measures as would have ensured their safety, but you know very well that as you never mentioned a word to me on the subject, I never could in any manner have had a proper package made. I pray you to write me word when you receive them.

I have already had the happiness of seeing Mr Izard, who has promised to write you. I have not yet had time to read the pamphlet, but I am told that it contains many interesting observations, and that it is written in a very masterly manner. I am very much pleased with the Spirit of Patriotism that appears in the Letter to the Count de Vergennes. I am sorry that I am not able to read it at present, as I have a very bad cold in my head, which affects my eyes very much. I am in hopes that I shall be able to read it in a few days.

I am, my dear friend, with the most perfect esteem and regard, Your most obedient and most humble servant

Arthur Lee

Please to present my compliments to Mr Izard.

vous un negotiant de Bretagne qui se dit allié dans votre pays avec le projet d'établir une maison de Commerce. Je crains que votre retraite à Princeton ne vous ait mis hors de portée de lui trouver des facilités et de lui accorder de la protection.

Ce que vous me mandez du projet de partager la residence du Congrès entre les provinces du nord et celles du midy me paroit un [illegible] je ne sçay si aux motifs deja donnés pour [illegible] on ne pourroit pas ajouter l'avantage [illegible] tems en tems le siege du Gouvernement. Il [illegible] en resulte que les [illegible] incommodités momentanées, [illegible] fait que ceux qui y viennent s'opposent à ces mouvemens mais à la longue le bien qui en resulte est infini. c'est le seul moyen d'éviter les grandes capitales qui sont par tout un mal incalculable. J'aitem dit que quelquefois des états prennent une resolution aussi heureuse, celle de quitter les villes maritimes et de porter les assemblées dans le milieu des terres. M. Adams pourra se rappeller que peu de jours après son arrivée à paris, comme il me marquoit le desir de voir rallentir les progrès du luxe, je lui répondis qu'on n'y remédieroit qu'en éloignant l'administration et les tributaires de la mer. Il ne s'agit que de retarder la marche du luxe et de la diriger vers des objets utiles, car ce n'est pas l'arrêter qu'il faut. Il n'est

que l'usage des Richesses qui n'altèrent point [illegible] et
dans les mariages perdent ce nom lorsqu'ils sont généralement
répandus. les meubles et le dîner d'un même bourgeois d'Europe
ressemble à celui de la cour du Roy Perse ou de Marbeth.

Je ferai part à Mr de Malesherbes du regret que vous
avez Mr Izard et vous de n'avoir pas pu vo[illegible]per des
arbres et des graines qu'il vous avait demand[illegible] pour
comme vous avez su il le Chr de la Luzerne [illegible] Barbois
s'en trouve rempli suffisamment et n'est [illegible] un
affaire inutile remerciement de ce que vous avez la bonté
de me dire à ce sujet.

Londres est dans un moment de crise. dans nos
attendons des nouvelles d'un moment à l'autre. comme
les papiers de ce pays disent tout, il faut que vous les ayez
peut être avant de recevoir cette lettre, je ne vous
entretiens aucun détail. Les Hollandais suivent de leur
côté une ligne fort sage pour mettre le stadthouder
au point ou il le faut. Je vous ai parlé à la fin
dans la Gazette de Leide que vous avez qui est
d'ailleurs la meilleure d'Europe. M Adams est à présent
à la Haie. J'espère qu'il nous reviendra bientôt.

Adieu my dear friend, portez vous bien et me donnez

de tems en tems de Vos nouvelles que nous devez Savoir
m'interesse toujours infiniment

Cambridge Febr. 3.d 1784

Dear Sir

Yesterday I was honoured with your most obliging favour of the 3.d of January; and I beg your acceptance of my most sincere thanks for a fresh instance of your friendship. You may depend upon my seconding your views & those of other Friends by coming on to Congress as soon as possible. The Interests of our Country may require this of me. I think it absolutely necessary, if Congress have it in contemplation to send another Minister to the Court of St. Petersbourg. It seems impossible for them to give him instructions adapted to the state of affairs there, without receiving more particular informations than they have yet had. Perhaps the honour of our Country also requires that a measure of that sort should not be precipitated.

These

These sentiments I confide to your discretion, and will not enter more particularly at this time upon the subject. I am much pleased to learn that it is your opinion that no one in Congress is in any manner dissatisfied with my conduct. This is much more than I had reason to expect, considering the means that had been practised to injure me essentially, in that Assembly. I hope to have the happiness of finding you in Congress on my arrival there. I thank you for your Congratulations upon my safe arrival

I am Sir your much obliged Friend &c

W. Smith

Honble Arthur Lee

R. Morris to Benj.a Franklin

Dear Sir/ Office of Finance 12 Feb.y 1782

The means of making Remittances are, thank God, now in my power, for the amount of taxes exceeds that of Expenditures, which last are reduced almost to nothing, & the revival of Commerce will increase the means of paying taxes, I have no other solicitude for the event, than what arises from the want of time to make due arrangements. This want I persuade my self you will remedy if you have not already provided against it, & may rely, that any engagements

may think it necessary to take shall
be most punctually complyed with by me.

I am &c Sign'd R. Morris

P.S. Since writing the above it occurs
to me, that there is, particularly on the
present occasion a propriety in trans-
mitting to you an Account the best in
my power of the situation of things
as to the funding of our publick debt.
I say the best in my power, for I know
not what is done southward of Virg.a
no mail having come from thence
in upwards of six weeks, by reason
of the inclemency of the weather &c.
greatly impedes our intelligence from
every quarter. N. Hampshire, Mas-
sachusetts, N. Jersey, Pensylvania
Delaware, Maryland & Virginia

have adopted the plan recommended by Congress. I am assured that N. York & Connecticut, will adopt it very speedily & I am told (on good authority) that Rhode Island, will come in, so soon as the example of the other States is communicated. It is in consequence of my conviction, that the plan will soon be agreed to by all, that I have published an advertisement of the 9th instant Copy of which is enclosed.

R. Morris

N. B. This was inviting people to give in proposals for remittances to pay the foreign Interest — a measure somewhat premature.

R. Morris to T. Grand banker, Feb. 12. 1784

1784

My letters from Messrs Wilhelm Vanwellenek & Co announce to me a sum remitted to you beyond the idea which I had formed of your wants & the consequence of it is that bills I had drawn on them remained unprovided for. Not having received letters from you for so long a time, it is impossible for me to guess at the exact state of your accounts; but if Mr Barclay has placed in your hands the sums which I expected he would have done, it appears to me that the U. S. must have been considerably in advance to you, at the very moment when my bills were in the critical situation above mentioned. I shall not however draw any conclusions on the subject before I receive those advices from you which I am in the hourly expectation of.

R. Morris to Thos. Barclay Consul. genl. 16 June 1784

I must confess to you, that I am disappointed in not hearing of the attachments on the Alliances prize Money & the arms, also in not receiving your account curt. Sir not having such a State of Mr Grands accounts as would enable the treasury officers to make the proper entries & settlements here.

The same to the same 10.th Sept.r 1784

The account of bills on Mr Adams & Mr Laurens is also filed at the treasury. I wish these accounts had traced the money from Paris to Amsterdam, or rather that you had transmitted to me the final settlement of Mr Grand's accounts, so that in the accounts now about to be officially rendered I might have been able to state better than is now in my power, these foreign transactions.

Extract from Thos Barclay to Robert Morris
Dec.r 19.th 1784

I made a tolerable adjustment of twenty of Mr. Grand's accounts, but I was obliged to stop for want of vouchers to several articles of very great moment. In the accounts which are settled with him the deficiency of the bills produced in support of them is about six thousand dollars. He offered to give an obligation against a future demand being made for these bills. But as the members are unknown, I declined receiving it. I believe the whole or a part of them may be found, but it is impossible to make a proper settlement 'till either this is done, or a comparison made with D.r Franklin's book of acceptances, a copy of which he was preparing for me when I left Paris.

(a) These came no lower than Jan.y 1782

1784

His Excellency the President of Congress

Sir

Office of Finance 17 March 1784

(67)

Permit me thro y^r Excellency to call the attention of the U. S. to the situation of my department. During the last year, engagements were made to a very considerable amount for payment of the Army. This payment was effected by notes which fell due the end of last year & commencement of this. The funds at my disposal were unequal to the discharge of them. I was therefore under the necessity of drawing bills on the credit of the loan in Holland. The information I had received from the Gentlemen who had the management of it gave me hopes that funds for the payment & discharge of those bills would be in their hands for in the months of may, April, June & July they had received on distributed obligations 1,136,000 cur: flor: But from causes which will readily suggest themselves to Congress, that loan which had taken a rapid start, at the peace, began to decline in regard, & stood still during all November. It has happened therefore that Bills to the amount of 1,375,000 cur: flor: equal at the cur: exch: to 530,000 dll. are protested for non-acceptance. Should they come back

sted for non-payment the consequen
ces will be easily imagined — For about a
month past I have been in the expectation
that this disagreeable event would happen &
whether it will or not, is yet undetermined. My
last advices from the Gentlemen who have the
management of the Loan are in a Letter of the
22d Decr. by which they tell me — "We are sorry
to be oblig'd to repeat, that since our last to the
present moment our prospects are not very
much increas'd, however we are not quite
without hopes, & have determind if we cannot
do otherwise to sacrifise some more premium
to the Undertakers, which if we do will charge
to the account of the U. S. We think ourselves ful
ly authoriz'd to this, by the circumstances, since
without that, the Bills going back it is certain
that besides the disappointment & the dis-
credit it would give to the government bills
the expenses attending the returns will be
much more than the reserve. We have almost
no prospect to get the money without such
a sacrifise & only hope it will answer our
views". Inclosed you have the Act. cur.t with
these Gentlemen as sketched out by the Register
for information by which it appears that they
had in their hands a balance of 347,720 cur.cy fls.
on the 31. Oct.r last. By the subordinate Account

no 5, it will appear that my bills exceed that
1,513,229. 4. cur: flor: but from this a deduction is
to be made for some tobacco shipped to them the
account sales whereof are not yet come to hand.
They have however accepted my bills beyond
the amount of their funds & still there are to
the value of 1,325,000. cur: flor: protested for non
acceptance. In order however that Congress
may possess as full a view of things as possible
I will suppose for the present that by making
a sacrifice of premium, the funds for discharging
these bills may be obtained. I must also men
tion here, to obviate what might be suggested
that the remittances to Messrs le Coulteulx
Grand will be found accountable for in their
accounts. But time will not permit going
into all those details at present.

Supposing then the funds to be obtained for pay-
ment of these bills, the interest falling due the begin-
ning of June next will amount to 200 000 cur: flor.
equal at the exch: exch: to 80,000 dlls. By the enclosed
state of payments just received from M. Grand it

appear that on the 5th Inst. there is payable at this house the sum of 1,600,000 Dollars of the current exch. to dlls 2,080,000

Thus you will find that on the best supposition that can be made there is payable in Europe during this year 400,000 dlls over & above the Salaries of foreign Ministers & their contingent expences. There is also to be paid the further sum of 100,000 dlls due in this country on Engagements taken for the public service during the last & present year besides notes in circulation which may probably be absorbed by the taxes between this & the first of May next. Thus there is a deficiency of half a million to be provided for by the taxes from the 1st of May to which must be added sundry debts of the last year not yet adjusted & which cannot therefore be estimated, but which may amount to between one & two hundred thousand dollars more, and to all this must be added, the contingent expences of Congress will best be able to ascertain.

This, Sir, is a view of things
the fairest side, but of the bills noted
for non acceptance come back
a reserve with them be spared us?
it is better for you to conceive
than for me to describe. The delay
of the States in granting paying funds
for granting revenues to fund our
debts &c. left the above men-
tioned sum of 400,000 dlls, totally
unprovided for, & I cannot see
the least probability that their
general concurrence will be
obtained in season to make that
provision. I beg leave therefore
to suggest, the expedient - that
the produce of the requisitions
for 1782, & 1783 be partly appro-
priated to that payment, & that
the money be replaced from the

superfluous when they come in. But whatever mode may be adopted Congress will doubtless be alarmed with this breach that unless the States can be stimulated into exertion, that speedily, every thing must fall into confusion. I will not pretend to anticipate the evil consequences. Having stated the facts I have done my duty.

I must however premise moments indulgence to mention that the accounts of the last year, which have been rendered by the Treasurer, but as I have not relinquished the hope of being able to quit this office soon I have neither desired to complete all the accounts of my Administration It will give me infinite pleasure if when I have the honor of presenting to Congress these accounts with my Commission I shall find therein circumstances as prosperous, as those under which I accepted it were adverse. I am &c. sign

Robert Morris

N.B. Mr Morris's Expectations were strangely disappointed, since he left the Office with-

and covering any account of a great many millions expended abroad. The accounts which are now settled. This day Octr 12th 1786.

Loans & Subsidies received in France as Morris Rec.d

Rec.d 15th Rec.d from Individuals including the Farmers general	3,000,000	R
Loan from the Court	3,000,000	
1779	1,000000	
1780	4,000000	
1781	4,000000	
Do Subsidy from the Court	6,000000	
Do for the Holland Loan	10,000,000	
1782. Do a loan from the Court	6,000000	
1783. Do Do	6,000000	
	43,000,000 R or	7,962,962.86/dll

Statement of Mr Grand Dec.r to Feb.y 26.th 1781. see D.o

1781 Feb.y 26. By various payments to this day for Clothing Arms, ammunition, Ministers Salaries, prisoners &c &c 5,011,533.2 — 1,298,432

Messrs Cabarrus & Co. Madrid, a bill drawn on Franklin previous to this date	13770,	2,550
Bills of Exchange drawn for interest of Loan & the Certificates by order of Congress	8,421.390.	1,559510.60
Bills drawn on their Ministers for other purposes	4,954,980.10	917,589.5
	20,401,674.	3,778.087.70

The following statement from Mr Mo. printed Accounts will shew the adverse circumstances in which he received the Finances of the U. S.

1781 Nett Receits ——— dlls 1,030,084 23/
Total Expenditures - - - dlls 723,459 30/
Balance received - - - - - - 306,624 83/

He left the Office in Nov: 1784
With an Anticipation on
The ~~taxes~~ ——— dlls 152,896, 15/
The feuds in Europe - - - - - 88,306, 03/
Total anticipation - - - - - 241,203 8

But the whole sums acknowledged the same Accounts to have been received for the use of the U.S. in 1781 were
Received in France 20,000000 ℔ or ——— dlls 3,703,703, 60/
From the States & Sales of Lands - - - - - 299,453, 28
Total received of which Mr Morris as Superintendant had the sole management - - dlls 4,003,156. 88
Total Expenditure at home - - - 723,459. 30/
Balance - - - - - - - - - - dlls 3,279,697 50

1782 Total receits in France 6,000000 ℔ = dlls 1,111,111, 10/
Do Do from the States & Sales - - - - - 348,136 24 1,459,247 34
Total Expenditures - - - - - - - - - - - - 2,618,970. 58
Balance of Expenditures - - - - - - - - - - - - 1,159,723 24
Deduct 1,159,723 24 from the balance of 3,279,697 58
Balance in hand at the end of 1782 - - - - - 2,219,974, 34

Civil Expenditure in 1782 then is for Clothing dlls 322,068. 27 } 511,034. 48
for Equipment & Old Accounts - - - - - 188,966, 21 }

J. Olney Esq. receiver for Rhode Island

Office of finances 24. March 1784

I forsee that we shall soon be plunged into a scene of confusion & distress the end of which cannot easily be guessed at. I will not even attempt to draw a picture of our situation, for I know that some have brought themselves to a habit of declaring at least, if not of believing that every thing written on that subject from this office originates in design, & therefore they close their eyes & those of others upon the plainest statements of Accounts.

I think it necessary for America, that I should quit my office, even admitting the justice of those flattering expressions contained in your letter. I hope that persons will be found as honest & more capable. But be that as it may, the people will I hope more easily believe when they hear truth from some other quarter if not, they will at least feel the consequences, which tho so often predicted have never been forwarded against

I am Sir &c. Robert Morris

111

Dupl. of a Ltr. to Thos. Jenifer Intendant of Maryland.

Office of Finance 25 March 1784.

Sir

The State of the finances is almost desperate and unless speedy & effectual measures be taken all hope must soon be discarded.

signed Robert Morris

The Hon.ble Benj.a Huntington Esq.r

Sir Office of Finances 25.th March 1784

I am very happy to learn that your political affairs are taking a better turn, & indeed it is time, for our credit abroad & at home is now brought to the verge of dissolution. I feel myself much obliged for your kind expressions on my subject but I think it is for the public interest that I should speedily quit my station. My successor or successors in office will perhaps be silenced, when they discribe our situation & the cause that voice of party, which has hitherto opposed the public services, or private, principles will be silenced.

Signed Robert Morris

Extract of a Letter from Paul Jon.
Marechal de Castries dated Paris March

I aver that if M. le Rey de Chaum
not been entrusted with the secret of the
intended, the views of the Minister would ha
not only fulfilled, but far exceeded, I had fro
a much greater Latitude given me by my or
from Mr Franklen, than M. Chaumont se
imagine".

It is certain, that the government of
foresaw that an expense would attend the
ment I was so generously invited to com
under the laws & flag of America".

I can only refer to facts mentioned
your Excellency in my former Letter
The force I commanded was under the Com
Laws & Flag of the United States, (a) & the Officers &
engaged, under my command, as in the American
Navy - I received my orders, as an american Of
ficer from the Minister of Congress & it fol
that the Captors are entitled in every light
treated exactly by the laws of the american Navy
And whatever understanding there may have bee

(a) Extract of a Letter signed B. Franklin & J. A
which Mr. A. Lee refused to sign, dated Feb. 7th 10 Clock
We hereby certify that your leaving the Ran
our consent, at the express request of his Excellency M. de
who informed us that he had occasion to employ yo
some publick service". To J. Paul Jones.

n the two Governments, respecting the
nce of the Armament, it makes not
egal difference with respect to the Captors

the same to the same March 26th. 1784

I will not complain, that the Prisoners stock
ed into Holland, were not exchanged for the Ameri
who have been taken in war on the Ocean,
long confined in english dungeons, by civil
rates, as traitors, pyrates, & felons, I will only say
that promise from the Minister of Marine
as all the reward I asked, for the anxious day
sleepless nights I kept & the many dangers I en
ntered, in glad hope of giving them all their
erty; & if I had not been assured, that Mr. Franklin
had made an infallible arrangement
the courts of france & england for their
redate redemption, nothing but a su
r force should have wrested them
of my hands, till they had been actu-
ally exchanged for the unhappy Americans
in England.

Extract of a Letter from Dr. Franklin
to Paul Jones. Passy March 25th. 1784

I certainly should not have agreed to charge the
rican Captors with any part of the expence

of maintaining the 500 Prisoners in Hol
they could be exchanged, when none of them
exchanged for the Americans in England, a
your intention, that had both been mad

Monseigneur a, par decision du 27
dernier, ordonné que la repartition des prises fa
l'Escadre aux ordres du Comodore Paul Jo
- roit lieu conformément a l'ordonnance du
mars, 1778 concernant les prises, de la Marine m
Feb: 10th Rejoin. Certified by Paul Jones

H Lee

Extract from a letter to the Marechal de
Minister of Marine in France, dated Paris
10th 1780. Signed Paul Jones.

I have examined, as you desired,
that was left before your Excellency, by
don, grounded on the papers that he
orders, been just into his hand by
de Chaumont, relative to the prizes that
made by the Squadron I had the honor
mand in Europe under the flag & Comm
of the United States, & under the orders of
Franklin, the american Minister plenipo
tentiary at the Court of France".

I wrote to Mr. Deane, & communic
the exact plan that was afterwards adopte
Toulon, under the command of Count d'Es
which had it been immediately adopted
Brest, would have put an end to the wa
forever in America"——

I received from the then Minister of Marine
the most flattering hopes & promises, but

Dec. 1779, you will be convinced, that if Lt. Gen. Vaughan had confined himself to his own which was that of Commissary of the Ordnance & not interfered with or caballed against as the military Commander, I might have rendered many more important services. I have taken eight sail of homeward bound ships, which entered Jamaica in Jamaica convoy. three days after I was obliged to enter the harbour of that port, by which I had certain advice, before I left, France, from England I might have taken, or destroyed the whole Baltic fleet, which would have prevented Admiral Rodney from relieving Gibraltar. I might have destroyed or laid under contribution various towns & their shipping on the Irish & British coasts — & I might have entered [illegible] with my ships in such good condition as might have enabled me to take under my convoy the Indian & Canada fleet of transports, loaded with stores & materials for the war that then waited for my escort for Britain. These projects failed, must stand as Mr. Gates's own account."

It cannot be admitted that

performance fell far short. He received from me
the hands of M. le Roy de Chaumont many
the secret expeditions I wished to command
of which were the interception of the Baltic
the diversion of the Hudson's bay establi-
ments. I was however crippled with for more
er, before I could say I had a force un-
command, this was owing I think
to the ill-judged confidence w.h he mi-
placed in Mr. Chaumont, who shewed nei
dgment nor secrecy, on that account many
xpresses were laid aside, that I had brought
rst to the point of execution. In the last in
ce of this kind a number of troops had ar-
d at l'Orient & in the moment when I ex-
ted them to have embarked with their General
Marquis de Fayette the expedition was laid
— I was then charged with a Convoy, with
Military Stores for the different ports de-
ssens in the Bay of Biscay & on my return
l'Orient to drive the Enemy's privateers
out of the Bay, had Mr. Chaumont then re-
manded at Paris, instead of meeting me again
did at l'Orient, that want of subordination
was so fatal to my projects, would have been
ided. If your Excellency will please to call
my official letter written at the Texel the 3

[illegible] Commerce of France, having gen-
[illegible]ly taken by the hand, the young
[illegible]lic of Congress Thereby been to be
[illegible]ent as to arm & support a Navab
[illegible]t his Majesty's expence, under the
[illegible]ption & flag of America, & send
[illegible] the American Vessels
[illegible] Officers & men, under any other
than those of Congress, with them
join & agreeably to which I pledged my-
self to every Individual among them
the time when I engaged them".
The Serapis arrived at L'Orient dismasted &
a worse condition than when she entered
Texel, & as the Officers at the port ad-
vised not to receive & destroy her Crew
with all the Magazines & store-rooms
on I knew any thing of the matter, which
obliged me to make a journey to Paris to ob-
tain an order from Government for the sale
of my prizes agreeably to the Laws of the
rican flag.

Extract of a Letter from Commodore Jones to the Commissioners of the Board of Treasury dated Aug. 13. 1786

"By my obedience to Doctor Franklin's Order, the Prizes had got under the lines of M. le Ray de Chaumont, who became a Bankrupt before the end of fleecing (besides entrenched behind l'arrêt de Surseance) had neither inclination to render a satisfactory account to the Captors. Dr. Franklin, to know the circumstances, would have ted in the business, there is no reason to doubt, but that he would have brought to a conclusion, with less trouble & time than any other man."

Paris 23 avril 1784

Dear Sir

Jay peu profité de votre séjour quia fait icy le Colonel Harris. Il a été fort court, Il avoit bien des choses avoir nous ne nous sommes trouvés que deux ou trois fois ensemble. Nous avions cependant bien des choses à dire. Il est allé a Londres et ne me trouvera pas icy a son retour. Le pays a venir pour la Haie, ce sera une course d'environ un mois. Ce pays est dans le trouble et je suis bien aise de voir comment il va.

Jaime de vous que mon apporté le cahier ma fait beaucoup de plaisir. Jay cependant pas trouvé une chose que je desire fort de savoir, cest si vos effets nont pas souffert faute d'être emballés suffisament. mad. Izard et vous mavez donné, comme vous savez, de linquiétude sur cet objet.

Jamais aucune revolution parlementaire na été aussi complettement en faveur de la cour que celle qui vient dy avoir en Angleterre. Je vous dis que M. Fox ne sera même pas dans le parlement et quil ne sera que par les nouveaux elections ce qui sera dit dans la Chambre. Jay des amis dans le parti battu dont je partage sensiblement la deroute. Vous verrés bien sur de trouver plus affaire au Lord North. Cela vous est assés indifferent actuellement.

Lentetement des anglois a soutenir leur acte de

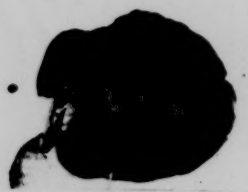
Navigation les inévitables. Le nouveau Ministère prendra peut être des maximes plus raisonnables. Il vaut être bien le matin pendant la première Session et peut être pendant une ou deux autres. Il pourra faire de bonnes œuvres et il en a certainement beaucoup sur les bras.

Elle et Mad^e Izard oublient leurs amis. Je n'en suis pas trop content. Cependant je m'adresse également à eux pour oublier le ressentiment pour ne penser qu'à la satisfaction qu'ils ont d'être Français chez eux.

Adieu my dear friend de vos nouvelles et n'oubliez pas le voyage de vos Malles.

To

The Honble Arthur Lee Member
of Congress.



The United States in Con

To all who shall se

Whereas we have judged it proper that one or
boundaries of the United States of America, in the northern and middle
and all to the northward & westward of them and as far South as the Ohi
United States and of establishing boundary lines of property for seperating
Indian Villages and hunting grounds and thereby extinguishing as far as pr
Letters Patent under the Seal of the United States and bearing date the 12th day
nated, constituted and appointed our trusty and beloved George Rogers Clarke, Oli
sioners, and by our Letters patent under the Seal of the United States bearing dat
trusty and beloved Philip Schuyler our Commissioner in addition to our Com
Wolcott, Nathaniel Greene, Richard Butler, Stephen Higginson and Tho
name to confer treat, agree and conclude with the said Indians or with any Na
in the northern and middle departments aforesaid. And Whereas Nathaniel
declined that Office and we have thought proper to appoint two other Commissione
all power and authority given & granted by our Letters patents aforesaid to the said
the integrity, prudence and ability of our trusty and beloved Benjamin Lincoln
and Arthur Lee our Commissioners in the room & stead of the said Nathaniel Green
said George Rogers Clarke, Oliver Wolcott, Richard Butler, Philip Schuyler, Be
Rogers Clarke, Oliver Wolcott, Richard Butler, Philip Schuyler, Benjamin Lin
in our name to confer, treat, agree and conclude with the said Indians or with any
the northern and middle departments aforesaid of and concerning the establishment o
tween them and the Citizens of the United States in as ample form and with the
valid and to fulfil and execute whatever shall be agreed upon concluded and fig

In Testimony whereof we have caused the
Excellency Thomas Mifflin President
of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and

Thomas Mifflin

Cha Thomson Secy

Congress Assembled

all see these Presents send Greeting -

t one or more Convention or Conventions be held with the Indians residing within the
middle departments comprehending the whole of the Indians known by the name of the Six Nations
the Cherokees inclusive for the purposes of receiving them into the favour and protection of the
erating and dividing the Settlements of the Citizens of the United States of America from the
as possible all occasion of future animosities disquiet and vexation; And Whereas by our
12th day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty four we nomi-
ke, Oliver Wolcott, Nathaniel Greene, Richard Butler and Stephen Higgenson our Commis-
ning date the 8th day of April in the said Year we nominated, constituted and appointed our
our Commissioners aforesaid giving and granting to them the said George Rogers Clarke, Oliver
and Philip Schuyler or to any three or more of them full power and authority for us and in our
any Nation or Tribe of Indians within the boundaries of the United States or bordering thereon
Nathaniel Greene and Stephen Higgenson whom we had appointed two of our Commissioners have
missioners in their stead. Now therefore Know Ye that we have revoked and by these presents revoke
the said Nathaniel Greene & Stephen Higgenson - And reposing special trust and confidence in
Lincoln & Arthur Lee have nominated, constituted and appointed them the said Benjamin Lincoln
el Greene & Stephen Higgenson - And we do by these presents nominate, constitute and appoint the
ler, Benjamin Lincoln & Arthur Lee our Commissioners giving and granting to them the said George-
min Lincoln and Arthur Lee and to any three or more of them full power and authority for us and
th any nation or tribe of Indians within the boundaries of the United States or bordering thereon in
shment of peace with the said Indians, the extinguishing their claims and settling boundaries be-
with the same effect as if we were personally present and acted therein hereby promising to hold
l and signed by our said Commissioners or any three or more of them -

used the Seal of the United States of America to be hereunto affixed - Witness His
President of the United States in Congress Assembled this twenty sixth day of April in the Year
dred and Eighty four and of our Sovereignty and Independence the Eighth -

The Receiver of Maryland

Sir Office of finance

I am desired by

Litzhman of Baltimore have

drawn for his bills on Robt. M

hand that sum is placed to answer

his ~~demands~~ drafts they will be brought

immediately to the public eye in expec

tation that you will remit the said

bills to me Robert Morris

laws in other hands. And a
sidered, that these Gentlem
were bound by duty prop'd for the
interest, which was now
case of some became pr
to all. This conduct as h
mentioned, gave offence to some, but as no
regular accusation has ever been brot
I shall go no farther, into a defence of
the measure, my object being as well to
point at future operations, as to explain the
past. I will not go into a detail of the
modes formerly prescribed for keeping the
Loan-office accounts, suffice it to say
that very few of the Officers have conform
to them. The Instructions for settling the
Accts now before Congress & the enclosed
extract shews, that they cannot be effectually
adhered to, & consequently that a principal
object in the settlement of accounts will
not be effected. I pray leave therefore again

ency the President of Congress
of June Philad. April 29th 1784
ion of your situation under
for me to stipulate, that I sh.
with ample powers, I under
determination to avoid as
much as possible the employing of per-
sons who had public accounts unsettled.
My subsequent experience has shown,
that if this determination had been
universally adhered to it would have
tended much to the establishment
of that regularity which has been con-
stantly kept in view. From frequent
information I was convinced, that many
of the Loan officers had not conducted
their business according to the mode
prescribed, & had indeed neglected
even to make those returns which
had been from the beginning required
This was an additional reason
for placing the seat of Government

the attention of Congress a report
of the 3.d of Sept.r from the office of
finance that it is desired, that the
House take the resolution therein
mentioned into consideration as
early that it may come
into work on which to establish
a mint may be effected

There perhaps a favorite object to
keep up the establishment of the Loan Office
but I must on this occasion repeat, what
I have so often declared, that it is an ex-
pensive & a pernicious establishment
without being attended with a single good
effect, to compensate the mischiefs. I
shall not however trouble Congress with
any reasons on that subject, because tho
I think it my duty to bear witness against
them, I know the progress of all reformations
to be slow, & that experience is the most
certain teacher. I [redacted] with perfect
respect I have the honor &c
signed Robert Morris

John Nicholson Esqr Mar
Office of finance

From a conversation w.
I am inclined to believe that
more of this tobacco will
without pressing on my
fulfilment of an agreement which the my
views to them cannot be useful to the public
I think therefore that I shall close the
transaction with such deliveries as
have actually taken place.

Robert Morris.

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Charles Thomson Esq.r Secy.

Sir Office of Finance

Inclose you a Note on [illegible] 1316 3/90 Dollars being the amo[unt] in your favor, for your own, [illegible] Salaries & printing work for [illegible] Office, to the 31st. March last. [illegible] non paid by Mr. Harewood the Receiver when [illegible]

As I have endorsed your warrant, you will please to acknowledge the receit of this in such manner, that it may form a proper Vou[cher]

Robert Morris

George Olney Esq.r Receiver of Rhode Island

Sir Office of Finance 2d. June 1784

I shall not be surprised if at the next session of your Legislature they keep the impost [illegible] without making further provision for the public service. The instructions of your town-depu[ties] to oppose the grant of money until the particular purposes to which it is to be appropriated originate in a source which I believe I am acquainted with

& there was some omission here in the book from which this was copied

"We are prais[illegible] on this subject
too much contempt to take any
"Accounts of Receipts & Expenditures
early made out & transmitted
been some shades of groundless
sations. The Accounts of the
been delayed, because Parish
ounts equal the painful anxiety
on which have given some men so much
rouble. Their labors have not been quite in vain
for they have impeded the public service & em-
bettered the moments spent by one in care
to prevent those evils which were the necessary
results of their efforts. Before your towns cry
out against further taxation, let them first
pay what they ought to have paid nearly two
years ago. They shall not wait one half so
long for accounts of expenditures, as they have
obliged me to wait for money, which I was oblig'd
to expend before I received it. The people have
a right most clearly to accounts of the ap-
propriation of what they do pay, but those
who clamor on the present occasion stand in an
awkward position when they ask accounts of what
they do not pay.

Robert Morris

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Mount Vernon 12th. June 84.

Dear Sir,

Unsolicited by, and unknown to Mr. Paine I take the liberty of putting the services, and distressed (for so I think it may be called) situation of that Gentleman. —

That his Common Sense, and many of his Crisis's were well timed and had a happy effect upon the public mind, none I believe, who will recur to the epochs at which they were published, will deny. — That his services likely to have passed of unnoticed, is obvious to all. — and that he is shackled and necessitous, I wish undertake to aver. — Does not common Justice then point to some compensation? —

He is not in circumstances to refuse the bounty of the public — Few men for the least distressed, our most able State in the Union, has set the example — He prefers the benevolence of the State individually, to an allowance from

Congress

242

Mount Vernon 12th June 84.

Dear Sir

Unsolicited by, and unknown to Mr. Paine, I take the liberty of putting the services, and distressed (for so I think it may be called) situation of that Gentleman. —

That his Common Sense, and many of his Crisis's were well timed and had a happy effect upon the public mind, none I believe, who will recur to the epochas at which they were published, will deny. — That his services likely to have passed of unnoticed, is obvious to all. — and that he is chagreened and necessitous, I will undertake to aver. — Does not common justice therefore point to some compensation? —

He is not in circumstances to refuse the bounty of the public — New York nor the least distressed, nor most able State in the Union, has set the example — He prefers the benevolence of the States individually, to an allowance from

Congress

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Corps, for reasons which are exclusive in his own mind, and such as I think may be approved by others. His views are moderate, a decent independency is, I believe, the height of his ambition, and if you view his services in the American cause in the same important light that I do I am sure you will have pleasure in obtaining it for him.

I am with esteem & regard

Dr Sir

Y. Most Ob. Serv.

G. Washington

Richd Henry Lee Esq.

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Rec.d 20 July 1784

Gov.r Henry Lee Esq.r
Speaker of the House of Delegates
Richmond

Sir

I have the honor to transmit to you the Resolutions of Congress of the 12.th Instant, which I request you will lay before the Assembly.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient
humble Servant

Dear Sir, C + Chantilly July the 22d 1704

The letter that you did me the honor to write to me on the 12th of June last, I did not receive until two days ago. I impute this to my having been obliged to leave the Assembly, by the ill state of my health, a fortnight before it was adjourned.

The very great respect that I shall ever pay to your recommendations, would have been very sufficient to have procured my exertions in favor of Mr. Paine independent of his great public merits in our revolution.

I have a perfect knowledge of the extraordinary effects produced by that Gentlemans writings, effects of such an important nature, as would render it very unworthy of these States to let him suffer any where; but it would be culpable indeed to permit it under their own eye, and within their own limits. I had not the good fortune to be present when Mr. Paines business was considered in the House of Delegates, or most certainly I should have exerted myself in this behalf. I have been told that a proposition in his favor miscarried from its being observed that he had shewn enmity to this State by having written a pamphlet injurious to our claim of Western Territory. It has ever appeared to me that this pamphlet was

The

the consequence of Mr. Paines being himself imposed upon and that it was rather the fault of the place than of the man.

This however, was but a trifle when compared with the great and essential services that his other writings have done for the United States.

I am, with the most unfeigned esteem and regard, dear Sir Your most obedient & very humble Servant

Richard Henry Lee

Mr. Thomas Jefferson
22 July 1784

Robert Morris Superintend.t to H.

Office of finance

I have just now receiv
date. The long time whic
before a shippment com
Tobacco which I perceive
oblig me to take other measures for the
remittance which the remainder of it was in-
tended to form. I am therefore content that
you retain what yet remains undelivered
& shall be glad that you would take
measures for closing the account as
speedily as may be, this conformity to the
spirit of our agreement, so that if ad-
vances have been made beyond the
sum due, the public may have credit
for the discount.

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R. Morris Superintend. finance
for State of Massachusetts Ju

You have also enclos
Mr Thaxter for two hundre
the Treasurer must endor
kind as to receive that S.
remit to the amount i
may occur. This remit
direct to Mr. Swanwick, you may
make any entry thereof in your books
for none are made here, Mr. Swanwick
pays this sum to the treasurer & will receive
it from Mr. Thaxter there for you.

— to James Lovell &c —

Office of finance 17 July 1784

ended that the members of the last
sirous to abolish the office of
tablish that of Loan Offices.
ve may be attributed in
like of me, I in others to the
tifying particular dispositions
ves in order to accomplish particular purposes.
It is a pleasant thing to serve wise and
constant masters, for such are grateful.
The members of Congress are not half so bad
as the character they give of each other,
but I wish both you and I very fairly
quit of them.

Balances in the federal treasury

1784	Nov.r 1.	21986 dlls
....	Dec.r 31 ..	18440 ...
1785 ..	Mar: 31 .	110,674
.....	April 20 ..	61,314
.....	June 30 ---	73,805
...	Sep.r	89079
Dec.r 31		41902

D.o in Holland
1785 Sep.r 30 . 108,677

Quarterly Expend.e
of the Civil List
1785 Dec.r 31 ... 22601

Sir,

Of this moment received Letters from Maryland all well at Strawberry Hill, no danger to be Apprehended from any of the Southern Beaux. the are I believe dull enough at Annapolis they want some Sprightly Genius to enliven them could not you Spare time from your more important Business to endeavour to Amuse them. - I shall write to Mercer and Remember you with all the warmth of a sincere Wisher

Your Matts Harrison

Augt 16th 84

Dear Sir

I omitted mentioning in my last by Mr Bullock that Capt Martin would carry the 2000 of Holden & Whipple the title means also that Mr Hitchcock carries the 2000. on Friday you can know from Mr Triplett what he has done & with stand adieu

G. D. May

Falls of Ohio 21 Oct 1854

I pray do not fail writing by me or Dr Skinner in my absence on every opportunity

x x

Mr Henry Lee.

Fort Schuyler 3 o'Clock the 30th 1781

Gentlemen

I Have the Honour to inform You that I Have got Yesterday to this place, and altho we Had Bad fasted as we Have Marches we Arrived By land at the fort pretty long time Before Sun Set — Doctor Courtlands Anxiety to See You well Accomodated Has Made Him Advise You not to come Before We troops Have Made some Arrangements — But all Have You, and in this the Doctor Now Agrees with me, that You will be as well Here as Near as Any Where Upon the Road, and as Your Baggage is pretty Arrived and Nothing in Every Have, it Seems Nothing can Now Detain You it Seems to be Doctor Courtlands Opinion that Any Little influence With the Indians can in a pretty Great Degree promote Your Purposes — the Same Observation Having Been Made to me By Gen Herkimer, I Dont think Myself at Liberty to leave this Before I Have told the Indians what You May with me to Mention — But as the Doctor Clearly thinks it Sufficient for me to Speak to such Indians as Now are Within Call, I Beg Leave to Represent that the Interpreter Having Been Appointed for me to Be Here, I Have

Consequently made sundry Arrangements - Genl Washington & his journey
this Day Cramped us, my Aid-de-camp and several others, & are waiting here
on certain points which may Delay him disagreeably.

Give me leave therefore, Gentlemen, to ask you if by adopting Genl
Courtland's opinion, you could now send for the Indians, Oneidas and others
that are waiting for you at Oneida Castle - as it is [illegible] you will
be to Morrow or this Eve, you might then tell me, or send me, (if you think proper)
what you wish me to tell them on Saturday and Sunday next, if there is no
public Service for my attendance, I will by your permission to see our
New England

I strongly advise you not to Ride in the Night along the Road from
the German Flatts to this place, as there are some bad places, which in the
dark might be Dangerous.

With every Sentiment of Respect I am waiting for your orders and
have the Honour to be

Gentlemen

Your Most Obedient
Humble Servant
Lafayette

Canandaigua

Sir, Oct. 30th 1794

We have at this moment the honor of receiv'd your favr. of this day. Your attention & your intentions are very obliging. To-morrow even we expect to reach fort Schuyler, but the troops & stores are so far behind that they will not arrive 'till the day after. Mr. Kirkland is directed to summon the Chiefs at Oneida Castle, & we are in hopes Mr. Dean will arrive speedily with their Chiefs so that we may obtain the sense of all the tribes. — We shall be happy, Sir, to furnish you with an opportunity of addressing them in such manner as you may think proper. But if Mr. Wolcot being unfortunately taken ill, has remained behind to recover himself, & we do not expect he will be with us for two or three days. Our business therefore will be suspended 'till his arrival.

We hope your accommodations & those of M. Talbot's & the Gentlemen with them are tolerable, & very sincerely wish it had been in our power to have rendered them agreeable.

In expectation of seeing you to-morrow We have the honor to be

Dear Sir.

on Bord the amphion
in new port bay the 6th
8bre 1784

I cannot express to you how Sensible I am of your kind remembrance of me. I am also very Sorry that my hudden departure from this Continent, and the important mission with which you are charged deprive me of the Satisfaction of embraceing you. you are already in your Journey, and I am only waiting for the first favourable gale of wind for Setting Sail; but Respect that some favourable circumstance may one day approach me nearer to you, and that the pleasure of embraceing you wont be always interdicted me.

In Virginia where I made a Little Stay, I enquired about you. Some people who knew you, told me that you were in good health, but could not tell me where you resided then; I am much obliged to you for the information you gave me of your Situation.

Since I had the pleasure of seeing you, some agreable Events occured to me during the war.

And since the peace was ratified, I had the honour of commanding his Majesties naval forces in St. Domingo. now I goe back to my Country where I intend to take a Little repose for some time.

We should have gone to new York, and I dont know well what hendered us, we lie now at anchor in New ports harbour where the Inhabitants treat us with uncommon politeness the Ladies of this city are charming and very aimable, and the Gentlemen excessively polite My Lady Green whose Company I much frequent, has Received the best Education and is endowed at the same time with a great deal of wit, and a great Knowledge of the English and french authors. She is in a word a Lady fit to appear in our most chosen companies in Europe.

the Winter is very rough in Newport, but the Inhabitants, recompence us fully by their aimable politeness. a person a Little acquainted with the Language could with pleasure pass a winter in America. as for my part, I can assure you that I would to come back to it.

I am more sensible than I can express to you of the flattering testimony you make me of your friendship and remembrance, I am extreamly sorry that the position I am in, and my sudden departure hinder me from going to see you. if I succeed in my expectations, I shall have the pleasure of assuring you in person of my my most inviolable attachement and sincerest friendship.

I remain in the interim.

your most humble
and obedient Servant

C. Macnemara

Count Macnamara
Commander of his most
Christian Majesty's Ship
of war the Amphion

1784

Count Mc Namara

No. 275

Count Mc Namara
October 1784
(No: 275.)

Most Excellent Sir

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Dear Sir. Oct 8 1784

The King being desirous to manifest to the United States of North America the Consideration with which he regards them, and to provide that their respective Subjects should enjoy in their mutual Intercourse & Commerce all the benefits which they can produce, His Majesty has named his Commissary of his Royal Armies Don Diego de Gardoqui to go and reside near the Congress in quality of his Charged with Affairs on account of the Satisfaction which his Majesty has in his good conduct - His Majesty hopes that by the same means he will render himself acceptable to the Congress, and that they will give entire Faith and Credit to all that he shall declare to them in his Royal name, and that they will admit and treat him in the manner most conformable to the good correspondence which happily subsists between his Majesty and the States. On this occasion I cannot omit to assure your Excellency of my attention and Esteem, praying to God to preserve your Excellency many years.

St. Lorenzo 8th of October 1784 &c.

The Count de Florida Blanca

=ca.

His Excellency the
President of the Congress
of the United States of North America.

Answer on the other side.

Copy of Count
Florida Blancas
Letter —
1785.
Prime
Minister of Spain

& R.H. L's

reply

Papers used
in Books 9 &
10 —

Gentlemen —

Your Letter of the 18th Instant was delivered to us on tuesday last.

We hear with great concern that any differences have arisen between you and some of the citizens of this State who are with you for the purpose of carrying on business tending to promote their private interest. We agree in sentiment with you that it is improper for them to sell spirituous liquors to the indians while you are actually holding a treaty with them But reprehensible as they may be on this account, if the fact should be duly and in legal form established against them before us, we can not judicially draw their conduct in question upon an informal complaint by letter We feel a high respect for congress and their officers, but as a court of Justice we cannot turn our animadversions upon any man contrary to the ordinary modes pointed out by law in any instance whatever. The rights of the Subjects are too sacred for the hands of usurpation to touch, and as freemen we wish to be the last to do it —

It is the privilege of freemen and therefore of the Subjects of these united States when they conceive themselves injured

Injured to seek redress by due course
of law. This privilege we think the
Magistrates have no Authority to extend
The plaintiff in an action brings his
suit at his peril. The matter at right
between the parties is the basis on which
the cause must rest, and this can with
us be decided only by a Jury of the country
or by the court when judicially submitted
to them -

We will not call the powers given you by
congress in question nor the validity
of those powers; neither will we connive
at violating the rights or insulting the
dignity of the united States in the persons
of their officers, But we must beg leave
to observe, that when we give our aid
as a court to redress the injuries of
a subject or subjects who conceive
themselves grieved tho' it be against
a man acting under the order of
persons in exalted stations by the ap-
pointment of congress, we neither
connive at or violate the rights
of congress or connive at insults
offered their dignity -

In all cases it behoves the defendant
in a cause to comply with the exigencies
of the process of the court, and endeavour
to exculpate himself upon trial as a good

subject

Subject ought to do. If any one man or class of men were to be their own lawgivers and Judges courts of Justice would be of no avail, and the name of freemen would be a reproach to us.

We are gentlemen
with great respect.
your humble Servts

Johnstown 15th October 1814.

Isaac Vrooman
Christian Vrooman
Peter Lambert
George H Bell

Oliver Wolcott Richard Butler
& Arthur Lee Esquires —

Fort Schuyler,

Pres. S. Ohio [Copy Duline]

(№392) Washington County Oct. 18. 1784

Sir

"I is with singular pleasure I reflect, that you are of the delegation to Congress the ensuing year: That you can forgo your ease, and quiet to serve us, and I wish, I could add, to serve a grateful people. But I trust your mind is above giving way to disquiet and resentment. That you can do good for evil, when the interests of America call for your assistance. I have been told by one that professed friendship for you, that your politicks were too theoritical, too much refined for the multitude, for rude, uncivilized Americans. I rather judge, that your stubborn virtue, stands too much in the way of those, who with gales of popularity, or political chicanery wish to indulge a lust for domination, for rule, arbitrary-cal rule, and certain destruction. It is my hope that Ameri and even Virginia will never want friends, that will, success-fully combat and overthrow such malignant principles, such degrading ensnares to the interests and happiness of mankind.

I have for some time past viewed with concern the struggle that seems to have commenced between Congress and the States claiming Western Territory. I will not pretend to determine which side has erred most, or who obstinately persevers in error. This is certain, that every friend to his country ought to wish to see the matter finally concluded, on equitable principles. Delay creates jealousies, that may have a last ing effect on our union. We have the decision of Congress of April last, has forwarded the business much; but that principally relates to the country over the Ohio; the greater part of which, may remain a long time in possession of the Indians. On this side that river if New States were laid off, the numerous inhabitants would become immediately useful, by bearing part of the burthens of the Confederacy, and lessening the national debt.

In limiting the New States over the Ohio, it would accorded with my judgment if natural boundaries had been more

attended to. My personal knowlege of the Country by being two years and some Months Captive with the Indians when a lad gives me an opportunity to be satisfied on that head. But as it will be a distant day, before the Act of Congress can take effect, time will give an opportunity to know the necessary alterations. To hint, how the Country on this side the Ohio should be laid off, I hope will not be unacceptable.

Virginia ought to cede all Westward of the great Kanhawa.

The Carolinians and Georgia all Westward of the Allegany or Apalachian Mountains.

1. The State that includes the Kentucky Inhabitants would most properly be bounded by the Ohio on the North the river Kanhawa as high as the Mouth of the Roncaverte or Green Brian thence Westwardly along the Top of the Laurel Mountain to latitude 37°. thence along that lat. to the Meridian of the Rapids of Ohio.

2. ~~The State~~ adjoining on the South, be bounded by the Kanhawa from the Mouth of the Green Brian to the confluence of Little River near Inglis Ferry, and a South line from thence to the Top of the Allegany or Apalachian Mountain thence Southwestwardly along the top of said Mountain and the Ridges that divides the Eastern from the Western Waters to Lat. 34°. thence West to a point the nearest to the Cherokee river North to said river, up the same to the meridian of the Rapids of Ohio, South along the same to the Kentucky State.

3. To include ~~all~~ what remains Northward of the Lat. 34°. Eastwardly of the Ohio, and Westwardly of the Meridian of y^e. Rapids.

4. To contain the remainder of Western territory belonging to the United States on the Mississippi.

The two last is large, but their vicinity to the Spaniards, the unhealthiness of the climate, the vast quantities of naked and sunken ground, will point out some of the reasons for such extent.

The People of North Carolinia inhabiting the late ceded lands has chosen a Commissioner to go to Congress with a Memorial. His name is Cocke, altho. he is a confused, shallow body, yet you may learn something from him that may be of use.

I hope the matter will not be finally decided on until next Spring, when others better informed may wait on Congress.

Can you inform my friend your Brother, that Indian affairs
wear a bad aspect in the Southern department. The
Spaniards have gone great lengths in tampering with
them: Perhaps mostly for their Trade. And what is bad
on our part, Individuals. That I would be sorry to name,
have been making late essays to purchase, or rather
leave to possess great tracts of Country, that they Indians
or reserving for their hunting grounds.
When will the Commissioners for the United States, hold
Treaties in the Middle and Southern departments.
North-Carolina promised a Treaty, and purchase, of
the land, they lately sold at their land-Office; but
lately orders were given to withhold the Goods, and
the Treaty forbid. The Indians took great umbrage at
this. — Congress ought not to appoint Superintendants
of Indian affairs, until after the Commissioners return
from Treating, they will then be a better judge, who
to intrust.

It gives me infinite pleasure, to see the affairs of America
prosper, to see her rise step by step, to consequence, power
and glory; if I can in the smallest degree contribute
to any of these ends, it will be to me a great reward.

I am Honble Sir, with great respect,
Your most Obedient Humble Servant
Arthur Campbell

The Honorable Richard Peters
Esq
Trenton

Mr Lenox

14..0	1..0
5..4	1..0
9..0	3..4
	0..5..4

N. Campbell

No 44

Gen. Matthew Campbell
To Self & Co
Oct 18th 1784

(Jno 392)

(Jno 44)

Sir Trenton November 20. 1788

Lee R H

I wish it were in my power to give you the satisfaction that I know it would afford you to be informed that Congress was assembled and proceeding well with the public business. Unfortunately, we have not yet a Congress, altho twenty days are elapsed since the time appointed for it's meeting, but 4 States have been convened. No doubt Col: Monroe has informed his Correspondents of the intelligence he received on his Tour to Montreal; Niagara &c: that one reason assign'd for detaining the western posts from the United States was, because Virginia had not repealed her laws that impeded the recovery of British debts. It is sincerely to be lamented that our State should be so charged, and it is much to be wished that the Advocates for retaining those laws would no longer insist upon furnishing pretext for detaining from the U. S. possessions of such capital importance to the Union as these posts are. I have the honor to inclose you a copy of the treaty lately made at Fort Stanwix with the six nations. It was brought home by Mr. Wolcott, who informs us that the other two Commissioners were gone to Pittsburg to hold a treaty there with the western nations - he apprehends (from the content that appeared at fort Stanwix among some Shawanese chiefs) that the commissioners will not find much difficulty in treating with the western Indians. The accounts that we daily receive of the powerful emigrations from our State to Georgia, to

14. 221 North

North South Carolina, & from the interior parts to Kentucki, are very alarming — The causes assigned, are two — the desire of removing from heavy taxes, and the search after land. It certainly becomes our Legislature to consider this point with great attention, and to remove, or lessen the causes that effect the depopulation of the country. Do you not think Sir, that the Taxes might be considerably lessened by funding all our debts, both foreign and domestic. And then, by imposing such Taxes only as will most punctually pay the interest & sink the principal by slow degrees and for support of the Civil list? This would satisfy the public creditors, because the certainty of receiving the interest will render the principal vendible on good terms. It seems to me, that by this mode, the tax might be considerably lowered from its present enormous height. I think that I may venture safely to say, that our Revenue, Certificate, and all other taxes, amount in the aggregate to a heavier taxation than prevails in any part of the world! Upon this circumstance, I find some British writers founding the hope of our depopulation. It surprised me a good deal that our last Assembly did not take up and adopt, for the case of our fellow citizens, the Facilities given by Congress in their Act of the 28th of April last. By this Act (which I understand is before the Assembly) one fourth of the federal demand against us, may be discharged with Certificates of interest for money loaned the U. S. or for interest on liquidated debts of the U. S. If these certificates were by law made receivable in the Revenue tax, it would certainly & considerably facilitate

facilitate the payment of that Tax.

It seems that the parliament of G. Britain was prorogued without any thing being done respecting our Trade with them, altho a Committee of the privy Council, upon the petition of the W. India planters & Merchants for a free trade between them & the U. S. had reported an approbation of all the silly, malign commercial restraints upon our trade with their W. India islands, that are to be found in Lord Sheffields book on the Commerce of the two countries.

I have the honor to be, with much esteem and regard, Sir your most humble servant

Richard Henry Lee.

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Dear Sir,

Trenton in N. Jersey Nov.r 20. 1784

I should sooner have done myself the honor of writing to you, if it had been in my power to have communicated any thing agreeable - But I could only have informed you that we had not, have not, nor can we say when, Members enough will be assembled to make a Congress. As yet five but four States convened. This lassitude in our public councils must afflict our friends, and encourage the hopes of our Trans Atlantic foes, who look at us with an evil eye. Mr. Wolcott arrived here yesterday with the Treaty made at Fort Stanwix with the six Nations, and he informs us that the other two Commissioners have proceeded to Pittsburg to treat with the western Tribes. He thinks (from the satisfaction that appeared among some Shawanese Chiefs who were at Fort Stanwix) that the Commissioners will not find much difficulty in their treaty with the western Indians. I have the honor to inclose you a copy of the Northern treaty, and shall be happy to know your opinion of it.

I understand from Mr. Wolcott, that the Commissioners of the United States met many difficulties thrown in their way by N. York, which they overcame at last by firmness and perseverance. It is unfortunate when individual states obstruct general measures, and more especially when a State becomes opposed to the States; because it

seems

seems to confirm the predictions of those who wish us not well, and who cherish hopes from a discord that may arise from different interests. Colo. Monroe, of our delegation, who is lately returned from a Tour to Montreal, Niagara, and Lake Erie, informs us that he learnt in his journey, that the western posts were to be detained from us; and that the reason assigned was, because of the conduct of N. York and Virginia. The former for pushing the law of confiscation beyond the terms of peace; and Virginia for not repealing the laws that impede the recovery of British debts. The Governor of N. York told Colo. Monroe that it was a mistaken charge upon them, for that they had not confiscated since the provisional articles. It is to be lamented that any pretext should be furnished for injuring us in the essential manner that the detention of these posts will do. The Parlia=ment, it seems, is prorogued without touching the subject of their trade with us, altho a committee of the priwy Council upon the petition of the West India merchants and planters, had reported an approbation of all the silly, malign principles of Lord Sheffield respecting our trade with the B. W. Indies. This book of Lord Sheffields has been ably answered by several writers in G. Britain. My respects, if you please, to your Lady - I hope that she has recovered her health.

I have the honor to be dear Sir your most obedient and very humble servant

Richard Henry Lee.

Taunton November 26. 1794

Dear Sir,

I received your agreeable letter the day after mine of the 20th instant had been dispatched. I thank you sir for the very particular and satisfactory information that you have favord me with. It is certainly comfortable to know that the Legislature of our country is engaged in beneficial pursuits for I conceive that the Gen. Government, and a wise digest of our respective laws are very important concerns: the one to secure our peace, and the other our morals. Reasons may weave as fine a web of reason as they please, but the experience of all times shews Religion to be the guardian of morals - And he must be a very inattentive observer in our Country, who does not see that avarice is accomplishing the destruction of religion, for want of a legal obligation to contribute something to its support. The declaration of rights, it seems to me, rather contends against forcing modes of faith and forms of worship, than against compelling contribution for the support of religion in general. I fully agree with the Presbyterians, that true freedom embraces the Mahometan and the Gentoo as well as the Xn religion. And upon this liberal ground I hope our Assembly will conduct themselves. I believe there is no doubt but that the prosperity of our country depends eminently upon our Revenue laws, they therefore, demand intense consideration. It is natural for men to fly from oppression to ease, and while our taxes are extremely heavy, and North Carolina & Georgia lay

M. 225 Cattle

little or no tax, it is not to be wonderd that so many of our people flock to these States, & I do not mean by this, that we should suffer ill example to prevent us from honorably and punctually paying our debts. But I think that we may fairly practise here, as other Nations the most honest do - I mean, exactly to pay the interests, and slowly to sink the principal. An attempt to do the latter too suddenly, will ruin, by depopulating, the country. The only mode appears to be, a funding of the whole debt, so as certainly to pay the interest, and slowly the principal. Cannot a sinking fund be brought to bear upon the latter, by throwing all overflowings of taxes into a reservoir for gathering interest upon interest? I suppose that at all events, the facilities offerd by Congress in their Act of the 28th of April last will be among the amendments to the Revenue law this Session.

The people have certainly sufferd much hitherto by not knowing in season what taxes are lawfully demandable from them - For want of this information, numbers are compelled to submit to the extortion and abuses of Collectors. The Treasurer used formerly to publish annually in the papers what were to be the Taxes of the year, and this practise was then very useful - But at present, the dispersion of newspapers is so uncertain, that information thro that channel would reach but few. A Statement from the Treasury printed in the way of Hand bills, to be put up at the Court Houses & churches, might perhaps furnish the requisite information, & save the people from extensive abuse. I am very happy to know, for the honor of our country, that there is a probability of the impeding laws being again taken under deliberation. What I wrote to you in my last upon this subject, is a most serious consideration, and the inclosed paragraphs, taken from a late

Cole paper, will shew you how quickly the Scene of our proceedings
would, and the effect likely to be produced upon our Commerce!
By the 5th Article of the Confederation, the annual meeting
of Congress is to be on the first Monday in November, and by
our Act establishing one yearly meeting of the Assembly on the
third monday in October, you will see Sir, that there is very
little probability of Virginia being represented in Congress
for some time after it's federal day of meeting. So that it
becomes necessary to consider this matter. I suppose that
either the Assemblies time of meeting must be altered,
or the Delegates for the ensuing federal year be cho=
=sen this present Session. We have not yet made a Congress
but we have some reason to expect eight States on Monday
next. I understand that Spain means to insist upon the
exclusive navigation of the Mississippi, which will render
the exploring our western waters of the greater importance.

I am dear Sir, with great esteem
and regard Your most obedient and very humble
Servant Richard Henry Lee

P. S. If the election of Counsellors is not over, may I be
permitted to suggest what I really believe will improve and fortify
the counsels of that Board - It is, that Major Gen. Gates be
appointed a Member of it - He has a pretty good estate in Berke
=ley, is a single Man and therefore not withheld from due attendance
by domestic considerations - But above all, he is a Man of

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great worth, solid judgement, and sound attachments to America. — A propos — It is by many here suggested as a very necessary step for Congress to take — The calling upon the States to form a Convention for the sole purpose of revising the Confederation so far as to enable Congress to execute with more energy, effect, & vigour the powers assigned it, that it appears by experience that they can do under the present state of things — If this has been observed, why do not Congress recommend the necessary alterations to the States as is proposed in the Confederation? The friends to Convention answer — It has been already done in some instances, but in vain. It is proposed to let Congress go on in the even tenor as usual — I shall be glad of your opinion on this point, it being a very important one

R. H. Lee

My dear Son Boston Dec.r 9th 1784 (250)

You will perceive You are not altogether unacquainted with Col Walker who will deliver you this Letter, whom you recollect that in the earliest Stage of the late War he discovered himself to be a warm & judicious Friend of our Cause, that he advanced his Money for the Support of our Troops when they entered into Canada, and that you afterwards saw him in Philadelphia. He is among the earliest Martyrs of our Liberties, for which he suffered great Injury & nearly the Loss of his Life in Canada long before Hostilities began. He carries with him the strongest Evidence of the Abuse he then met with, & his honorable Scars recommend him to the Notice & Friendship of every true Patriot

Col Walker is a Man of Sense & Knowledge, & well acquainted with Canada having many Years ago removed from this Town and resided in that Province; he is therefore capable of giving you the best Information respecting the Interest of the United States in that Quarter

I know your Attachment is to an early constant & persevering Patriot & that you are ever ready to lend your Ear to such a Man the best Service in your Power. Adieu my Friend

your affectionate

S Adams

Hon. R. H. Lee Esq.

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S. Adams

Dec 9. 1784

1784

Sir, Trenton Dec. 11. 1784

I have the honor to inclose to your Excellency a packet for his most Christian Majesty containing a letter from Congress to that Monarch recommending our able and active friend the Marquis la Fayette to his royal favor. The Marquis's former and recent services to america, have secured to him the warmest attachments of these United States.

I have the honor to be, with sentiments of the highest respect & esteem Sir Your Excellencies most obedient & very humble Servant Richard Hamphee

His Excellency
B. Franklin Esq.
Minister Plenipotentiary
from the United States of America to his most Chr. Majesty

Favored by Marquis La Fayette

N. B. Congress by resolve of the 10th inst. have directed the Secretary for foreign affairs to transmit to his Excellency the President of Congress, and Esquire, to introduce the inclosed Memorials &c. to his most Christian Majesty.

a Pare

His Excellency

The President

The Hon^ble

Benjamin Franklin Esq^r

Minister plenipotentiary from the United States of America to his most Christian Majesty

Trenton Decem^r 11^th 1784

Sir.

I have the honor to enclose to your excellency, a packet for his most Christian Majesty containing a letter from Congress to that Monarch, recommending an able and active friend the Marquis la Fayette to his royal favour. The Marquis's former and recent services to America, deserve and have secured to him the warmest attachments of these United States.

I have the honor to be with sentiments of the highest respect and esteem, Sir,

Your excellency's

most Obedient & very humble

Servant.

Richard Henry Lee

The Marquis La Fayette

Trenton Decem^br 11^th 1784

My dear Sir,

I have the honor to enclose you a letter for the Minister plenipotentiary of the United States, at the court of his most Christian Majesty, which covers a letter to our great and good Ally, a copy of which I have also the pleasure to enclose for your satisfaction. — I assure you my dear friend

that I feel myself singularly happy in observing the unanimous disposition that prevails in Congress to promote your glory, for I do most sincerely wish you every felicity that this world can afford.

I am, with unfeigned esteem and regard, My dear Sir,

Your affectionate friend

Richard Henry Lee

My very dear Uncle, (№393) Philadelphia Decr 12th 1804.

I expected long before this time to have had the pleasure of congratulating you on your appointment to the dignified and honorable chair on which the suffrages of your countrymen have so wisely placed you. It naturally gives pleasure to a good and well informed mind to see merit distinguished and rewarded let the person be who he may that possesses it, but when friendship and love for the person co-operate with this general principle, the pleasure is heightened to delight. Such do I now feel upon observing the well directed labors of my dear Uncle crowned with the wished for success, and himself rewarded for his glorious exertions. It encourages me to hope that Virtue and Wisdom will still characterize the conduct of America, and that tho' the most virtuous of her sons may for a time be hidden by the cloud of corruption and party influence, so that their merit may be overlooked or forgotten, yet a few years shall

bring them again to light, and restore them to their
deserved applause. I feel myself stimulated by a
virtuous emulation to imitate your character,
and am assured that if in so doing I shall deserve
to I shall meet with my Country's approbation.
Mr. Harrison this moment tells me that he expects
to set off for Trenton to morrow morning certain
-ly. I have been sorry that he could not be with
you sooner, as we supposed you must be in want
of him and the things he brings. No probability
yet of Congress's returning to Philada?

There is a Colo. Syphax in town from Richmond
a member of your house of Delegates, and a very
leading man in it. He is from all accounts
a sensible worthy man, and very much
your friend. I expect him here to dinner
in an hour. He brought me a letter from my
friend and kinsman F. Corbin, he informs me that
my Aunt W. Lee is dead. I am very sorry indeed
for this event on the account of my dear Uncle
R. who will I am sure be inconsolable. There
are two reasons why my father has not writ-
-ten to you, the one that he hates writing mor-
-tally at all times, and the other that he is at
present so immers'd in business, that he has

not time even to gratify his inclinations. He bids me offer his best compliments and sincerest good wishes to your acceptance, and to tell you that he meditates a visit soon to Trenton to taste the wine he has chosen for you. 'Tis probable that in the course of the winter I may be able to spend a few days also under the auspices of the President.

I am very sorry to inform you that there is a very bad prospect of getting your horses safely to Virginia. Your namesake upon my second application to him tells me it will be most unsafe to send them by the Stage, as they drive their horses always most unmercifully, and pay no attention at all to those which are led. That horses have returned more dead than alive which he has sent himself by the Stage I cannot act without your advice in this matter. Mr. De Barholt gave me his bill when I got the materials from him and I thought I had sent it to you, however the next post shall bring it.

Adieu my dear Uncle and be happy

Thomas Lee Shippen

No. 429.

His Excellency

Richard Henry Lee Esqr

President of Congress

at Trenton

Mr. M. Harrison

Thomas Le Maistre / Penna

Decr 19th 1784

(10375)

(Duplicate)

William Dier Esqr

Trenton Decemr 14th 1784

Sir. Your letter of the 10th Inst. was this day received and laid before Congress – no immediate

Order was taken upon it. if I may be permitted a conjecture, I would suppose that the enclosed resolve upon the subject of your letter was considered as the sense of Congress on that point- Should this not correspond with your idea, you will please to signify your opinion upon that point in a subsequent letter.

I have the honor to be, Sir.

Your most obedient and very humble Servant

Richard Henry Lee

6d.

His Excellency

Benjamin Franklin Esqr

Trenton Decemr 14th 1784

Sir, I have the honor to enclose to your Excellency a resolve of Congress passed this Day, the arrival of which in due season to prevent the signing of the convention alluded to, until an Opportunity of reconsidering it in full Congress may be had, will be very agreeable to that Body.

I have the honor to be with the highest esteem and regard, Sir,

Your Excellencyi's

Most Obedient Servant

Richard Henry Lee

The Marquis La Fayette

Trenton Decem^r 7^th 1784

Sir

In the name of Congress I am to request that you will be so kind as to deliver the enclosed letter to the Minister plenipotentiary of the

United States at your Court. as soon after your arri=
val as may be convenient.

I heartily wish you my dear
Marquis a pleasant Voyage and that you may
find every thing to make you happy on your Arri=
val in France.

I have the honor to be with Senti=
ments of the truest esteem and regard

Dear Sir, your affectionate friend
and Obedient Servant
Richard Henry Lee

The Post Master at New York

Trenton December 12th 1784

Sir.

I am directed by Congress to desire that you will immediately on the receipt of this, yourself deliver the enclosed packet to the Marquis de La Fayette who is now in New York with design to sail to-morrow— The business requires punctuality and dispatch, therefore you will please lose no time in delivering the packet.

I am Sir, your most humble Servant Richard Henry Lee

(N° 274) Dec 16 1784

My dear Sir

Being at Fredsburg I did not receive your first Letter 'till after my Return to Richmond, that of the 28th Nov. I now acknowledge the Receipt of, & would have answered it by the last Post, but was prevented by having a very sore Finger. The Assembly in general seem to foresee with you the Necessity of making their Appointment of Delegates to Congress to serve one Year from the 1st Nov. 1785 at during the present Session. It is certainly necessary to make the Appointment at this Time otherwise the Inconveniencies which you take Notice of must unavoidably happen. I think it would be wise in Congress to recommend to the States the calling a Convention for the sole Purpose of amending the Confederation. At present the Supreme Council of the Union is so feeble that they have little or no weight in Government. Their Recommendations are slighted, & their wisest Plans are subject to be rejected by any one petty insignificant State refusing to adopt them. Besides I see no Danger of making the Experiment, as we are not obliged to

part with the old Confederation 'till the new is adopted. Bad as the present one is, I would not wish to lose it but would willingly exchange it for a better. The Appointment of Counsellors was over before I received your Letter, otherwise, independent of the high Idea which I entertain of Gen.l Gates's Abilities, your Recommendation would have procured for him any Services within my Reach. The Assize Bill has happily passed thro' our House. I hope the Senate will have Wisdom enough to concur with us in the enacting so wholesome a Law. The Influence which it will have upon the Morals of the People, & upon the Credit of the Country will soon be universally felt & acknowledged. No other Business of Importance is yet completed, and as you know the fickle Temper of our House, it is needless now to tell you what Business is before the House, as the next Post may inform you of it's being rejected.

I am much obliged to you for your Enquiries concerning Mrs. Page's Health, & am happy to inform you that she is perfectly recovered after adding another Daughter to our Family. Will you send me two Copies of the Constitutions of the States?

I am, dear Sir, with the greatest Regard

Your very affectionate Friend

Mann Page

Richmond
Dec.r 14.th 1784

(N°394) Mann Page Jr.
Dec. 14th 1784.

~~(N°362)~~

Mann Page

1784

N° 394.

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The following document, in which George Washington discusses the recent treaty with the Six Nations (Iroquois) and western forts still occupied by the British, is faded and may be undiscernible. For a full transcription of the text, in which Washington also discusses internal communications and migration and proposes a survey of western lands, see Richard Henry Lee [III], *Memoir of the Life of Richard Henry Lee and his Correspondence* (2 vols.; Philadelphia: 1825), II, 12-15.

(258)

Mount Vernon 14th Dec 2 84

Dear Sir,

The letter which you did me the honor to write to me on the 20th of last Month, only came to my hands by the Post preceding the date of this. —

For the copy of the treaty held with the Six Nations at Fort Stanwix, you will please to accept my thanks. — Some people have given it their opinion, that the United States could reasonably have asked of them more perhaps than the State of New York alone ought to have been required from them, by any other than their own Legislature. — I wish they were better satisfied. — Individual States opposing the measures of the United States — encroaching upon the territory of one another — and setting up old and obsolete claims, to verify the predictions of our enemies, and, in reality, to bury unfortunate. — If the Western Tribes are as well disposed to treat with us as the Northern Indians have been, & with cede a certain district of Country North West of the Ohio, to answer our present purposes, it would be a circumstance as unexpected, as pleasing to me; for it was apprehended, if they agreed to the latter at all, it would be reluctantly. — but the example of the Six Nations who (if they have not relinquished their claim) have pretensions to a large part of those lands, may have a powerful influence on the Western Country, & smooth the way for the Commissioners, who have proceeded to Fort Pitt. —

It gave me pleasure to find by the Boston Gazettes, that a sufficient number

Ber

ber of States had Assembled to form a Congress
and that you had been placed in the Chair
of it — Or this event permit me to offer my
Compliments of congratulation. — To what-
ever causes the delay of this meeting may have
been ascribed, it must certainly have an un-
favorable aspect — contributes to lessen —
already too much — the dignity and importance
of the federal government — and is hurtful
to our National character, in the eyes of Europe.
It is said that two thirds of the
[illegible] Assembly have repealed their
former acts respecting British debts. — If this be
true, & the State of New York have not acted so
as to take from the effect of the treaty, the British
posts will not be given up, the Western
posts made a real cover, but it will be mistaken
if they do not unlock the recesses behind &
other resources of the union. — or, what appears
a time for discovering them, of which we
can [illegible] ourselves — the probable cause
given rise to this meeting of which the object of the
works. —

The Assemblies of Virginia and
Maryland have now under consideration
the extension of the inland navigation of
the rivers Potomack & James, and opening
up a communication between them, and the
Western waters. — They seem fully impressed with the political as well as local
mercial advantages which would result
from the accomplishment of these great
objects; & I hope will embrace the present
moment favourable for a plan for execution
— Would it not at the same time, be worthy
the wisdom, & attention of Congress to open
the Western waters with all expedition. — The
navigation of them fully ascertained. —

accurately

accurately laid down - and a completed
perfect Map of the Country - at least as far
Westerly - as the Miamies, running into
the Ohio & lake Erie, and to see how the
waters of those communicate with
the River St Joseph, which empties into the
lake Michigan, & with the Wabash? for the
the Miami Village in Hutchins's Map, if it also
the Waters are laid down nearly to a very important
post for the Indians — the expence attending such, as under
taken, could not be great — the advantages would
be unbounded — for sure Nature has made
such a display of her beauties in those regions
that the more the Country is explored the
more it will rise in estimation — consequently
greater will the Revenue be, to the Union —

Would there be any impropriety do
you think Sir, in reserving for special sale
all Mines, Minerals & Salt Springs in the
several grants of land from the United
States? — The public, until all the discoveries
etc. might, in that case, receive the benefits
which would proceed from the sale of them,
without infringing any rule of justice that
occurs to me, or their own laws - but on the
contrary, inflict just punishment upon
those who, in defiance of the latter, have
dared to create enemies to disturb the pub-
lic tranquility, by roaming over the country
marking & surveying the valuable spots in
the great dispute of the Waters between
Indians, who have viewed them precedent
upon artificial boundaries -

To hit upon a happy medium
price for the Western lands, to prevent
on the one hand - and settlers on the other, with
out encouraging useless speculators, would no doubt require considerable

deal

as an enjoyment to
ask display too much time before the terms
are announced.— The spirit of enterprise
is great - People have got impatient -
and tho' you cannot stop the road, it is
yet in your power to mark the way -
a little while, & you will not be able to do
either — It is easier to prevent, than to
remedy an evil. —

I shall be very happy in the exercise
of your confidence — with sentiments
of great esteem & respect
I have the honor to be
Dear Sir
Your most Obed. Hble Servt
Go. Washington

G. Washington,

14 Decr 1784.

about western affairs.

Mr Lockey
Rich & Henry &c

My dear Sir Boston Dec 23 1784

I congratulate our Country on the Glorious Progress it has lately made of a Saxon. He who fills that Chair is the most respected Citizen, and while he performs his Duty well, he adorns the most dignified Station in our Confederated Republick.

You observe in your Letter to me, that at this Moment, Moderation, Wisdom, Firmness & Attention are the Principles proper for our Adoption. I agree with you, and sincerely wish that every Man who has a Share in the Administration of publick Affairs may possess a large Portion of those & other great Qualities. They are in a particular Manner necessary to him who presides in the important Councils of the American Confederation.

Congress has need to watch lest the Commonwealth suffer Harm. I doubt not they will be assiduous in their Labours for the publick Welfare; and I pray God they may be His honored Instruments in exalting to the highest Pitch of human Happiness that People, who have sacrificed to the oppressed World, that by Patience, Fortitude & Perseverance the iron Rod can be wrested from the Arm of a Tyrant, and that all Nations may be free, if they will magnanimously contend for their Liberty.

By Gods Blessing on the Councils & the Arms of our Country, we are now rank'd with Nations. May He keep us from exulting beyond Measure! Great Snares are yet to be taken & much Wisdom is requisite that we may stand as a Nation in a respectable Character. Better it would have been for us to have fallen in our highly famed Struggles for our Rights, or even to have remained in our ignoble State of Bondage hoping for better Times, than now to become a contemptible Nation. The World have given us an exalted Character, & Heaven have laid on us a heavy Tax! They have raised Expectations from us! How shall we meet those Expecta

sions? They have attributed it to our Wisdom! How shall we confirm them in their Opinion of us? Inexperienced as we are in the Refinements of Nations, how we expect to shine in the World as able Politicians? Shall we thus be hackneied in the Paths of Deception because some others famed for their Dexterity in Politicks have long trod that Path & thought they have gained Advantage by it? Or, because it is said All Nations are self interested, & that No Friendship in Treaties and National Transactions is almost as proverbial as No Friendship in Trade, shall we depart from that excellent Rule of Equity, the Observance of which should be a distinct characteristick of all Nations & especially Republicks, as it is of all good Men, to do to others as we would have them do to us? Could we ~~have practised~~ be indeed thus to prostitute our selves, How should we appear in the Eyes of the Virtuous & Wise? Should there be found a Citizen of the United States so unprincipled as to ask, What will become of us if we do not follow the corrupt Maxims of the World? I should tell him, that the Strength of a Republick is consolidated by its Virtues, & that Righteousness will exalt a Nation.

Was it true as some assert, that the old World is absorbed in all kinds of Vice, unhumanized & enslaved, it would indeed be a melancholly Subject to contemplate, & I should think that common Prudence would dictate to a Nation situated as we are, to have as little to do with them as possible. Such indiscriminate censure, however, may spring from Ignorance of the World or unreasonable Prejudice. Nations as well as Individuals have different Characters. We should not forget the Friendship & Kindness of One because we have experienced the Injustice & Cruelty of Another. But the Inconstancy of Friendship & even Infidelity has been seen often enough among Individuals to lead wise men to suppose it may happen in any case & to exercise a kind of circumspection in

different from base suspicions; consistent with the generous sentiments of Friendship and, considering the Weakness of the human Mind, a necessary Guard.

Does not the true Policy, the Honor & Safety of our Country greatly depend upon a National Character, among other Particulars, on Simplicity & Candor in all her public Transactions; shewing her self in Reality friendly to those to whom she professes to be a Friend — A constant Regard to mutual Benefit in Commercial Treaties; suspecting the Honesty of those who will not deal deal with her on equitable Principles, & guarding her Trade against their Designs by wise Commercial Laws — An exact & punctilious Fulfillment of Obligations on her Part to be performd by Virtue of all Treaties — and, An unalterable Determination to discharge her National Debts with all possible Speed. — If, my honord Friend, the leading Men in the United States would by Precept & Example disseminate thro' the lower Classes of People the Principles of Piety to God, Love to our Country & universal Benevolence, should we not secure the Favor of Heaven & the Honor & Esteem of the wise and virtuous Part of the World.

Great Britain, tho' she has concluded a Treaty of Peace with us, appears to be not a cordial Friend. She cannot forget her unparralled Injustice towards us & naturally suppposes there can be no Forgiveness on our Part. She seems to have meant Nothing more than a Truce. A Sensible Gentleman very lately from Canada informs me, that General Haldiman was going to England, has ordered those Posts to be reinforced, which by Treaty were to be delivered to us. Encroachments are made, as I apprehend, on our Eastern Territories. Our Fishery may, under some frivolous Pretence be much interrupted. Should we not guard our selves against British Intrigues & Factions. Her Emissaries, under the Guise of Merchants, Repenting Refugees,

257 Scholar taylor & other characters, unless true in substance, may effect another of fatal Retaliation. The Commonwealth of England lasted twelve years, and then the exiled King was restored with all the Rage & Madness of Royalty! A caution to the Citizens of the United States zealously to counteract the Hopes our Enemies entertain of "Discord, Division & Despondency on our part," to watch over the publick Liberty & Safety with a jealous Eye, and to practice the moral and political Virtues upon which the very Existence of a Commonwealth depends.

Mrs Adams desires me to present her respectful Compliments to you & your Connections. I am with great Esteem

Your affectionate Friend

Sam Adams

Apr 23. 1781

J. Adams

His Excellency Richd H. Lee

President of Congress

Circular.

Trenton Decemr 24th 1784

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose to your excellency an Ordinance of Congress passed yesterday for fixing the permanent and temporary residence of that body.

With sentiments of great regard and esteem, I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your excellency's

most Obedient Servant

Richard Henry Lee

In the letters for New Hampshire, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland & Georgia, the following was added.

I am desired by Congress to request that you will be pleased to urge the Delegates from your State to repair to Congress as speedily as possible, to the end that the very important business now under consideration

may receive the fullest, earliest and most mature
deliberation

Extract from a letter from J. M. to Richd. H. Lee Dec: 25. 1784

"In the course of the last week a proposition was made to empower Congress to collect the Impost within this State [Virginia] as soon as 12 States shd. unite in the Scheme. The argumts which prevailed agst. it were the unfavorable aspect it wd. present to foreign Powers the tendency of the example to inferior combinations - the field it wd. open for contraband trade - its probable effect on the Temper of R. Island. which might thereby be led to unite in measures with a view requiring the unanimity of the States - the improbability of the union of 12 States on this new ground. a failure of which wd. increase the appearance of discord in their Politics: and give fresh triumph & invitation to Rh. Island.

I have not yet found Leisure to scan the project of a Continental Convention with so close an eye as to have made up any observations worthy of being mentioned to you. In general I hold it for a maxim that the Union of the States is essential to their safety agst. foreign danger. & internal contention; and that the perpetuity & efficacy of the present System cannot be confided in. The question therefore is, in what mode & at what moment the experiment for supplying these defects ought to be made. The answer to this question can not be given without a knowledge greater than I possess of the temper & views of the different States. In point of wisdom I think to be seen in the excellent dispositions towards the Confederacy, both his assent or dissent to such a proposition wd. probably depend on the chance of its having or not having sufficient capable of overcoming the prejudices & jealousies of the Assembly agst. encroachments, particularly such as will derogate from their own power & importance. Should a view of the other States present no objections agst. the experiment, individually I wd. wish none to be presupposed here"

Dec 25

Dear Sir, Trenton december 26. 1784

I had the honor to receive your obliging letter, of the 14th instant, seven days after its date: and I thank you Sir for its friendly contents and sensible communications. Your ideas concerning the western country are wise and just. They will certainly have great weight when that business shall be discussed in Congress: and that will probably be the case soon after we know the success of our commissioners at Cayahoga.

Much time hath been taken up in debate upon the permanent and temporary residence of Congress, and finally it is determined that the former shall be on the banks of the Delaware, not exceeding eight miles above or below this place, and on either side of the river that may be fixed upon by commissioners to be appointed for the purpose of superintending the federal buildings

66

New York is to be the temporary residence and Congress stands now adjourned to meet in that City on the 11th of January next - when I hope that we shall diligently put forward the public busi= - ness. Spain seems determined to possess the ex= =clusive navigation of the Mississippi; which, with the bickerings that appear already on that quarter, will oblige Congress to send an able Minister to Madrid. Add one also to the Court of London, that we may, if possible, negotiate commencing differences, before they have proceeded too far. The western Posts are with-held, and an encroachment already mad on our north-eastern boundary. An ambiguity in th Treaty arising from there being two rivers named St. Croix that emptly into Passamaquady Bay has en= =couraged the British to settle the country between them - thus determining in their own favor the right to an extensive and valuable country - The fact is, that the eastermost of those rivers is the true St. Croix the same name having been of late date only, applied to -

to the westermost of these waters. The very unfriendly commercial principles entertained by the B. Ministry and the disputes concerning debts and removed Negroes, are points of consequence also; which together form a field for able and ample negotiation.

The Marquis Fayette had embarked for Europe before the letter for him that you enclosed came to my hands. I should be glad to know your pleasure concerning it - whether I am to send it on to France after him or return it to you?

My respectful compliments attend your Lady, and wishing you and her the compliments of the season, I am, with very great esteem and regard, dear Sir your most obedient and very humble servant

Richard Henry Lee.

And

Extract from an Essay on the Commerce of Russia sent the U.S. by Marquis de la Fayette transmitted to a member of Congress in 1784.

En faisant sacrifiant a la derniere guerre et ses tresors et le sang de ses citoyens, la France a dû y prevoir de grands advantages. Il en est qu'aucune faute ne peut lui oter, et tandis qu'elle a recouvré sa consideration sa rivale perd une partie de son Commerce, un territoire immense, un grand nombre de sujets que l'Europe s'empressait a multiplier. La France a plus fait encore; elle s'est garantie d'une ruine sure et prochaine. Aux yeux de toute ce qui connait le nouveau monde, il est demontré que la veille de la declaration d'Independance, l'Angleterre pouvoit s'epargner toutes nos prospections ameriquaines; mais quoique pour les bien apprecier et les maux evités, nous devions benir cette Revolution, quoique les lieux communs de la Critique se reduisent eux-mêmes a savoir si cette forme inevitable des P.U. a présent isolée et tranquille seroit mieux placée dans sa reunion avec ses rivaux, il est D'autres profits encore qui nous semblent a gagner, et que je vois a regret nous echapper.

(65) 1784

Extracts from the communications of the Chevalier de la Luzerne Minister of France to Congress on Genl Carleton's having communicated the determination of his Court to suspend hostilities in America.

His Court desires a declaration that — The U. S. will not be contented with a seperate peace, but will continue the war 'till their Allies shall have concluded their own peace; which will shew G. B. that their independance will not satisfy them, but that they will pursue the british Troops wherever they can be found.

To declare — That the U. S. will not be sati[illegible] with the

acknowledgement of their Independency, but will continue the war, in all ways, in their power, till their Allies are ~~as~~ to [illegible] if the british troops are removed from the U. S. they will pursue them where ever they can be found.

A Speech 178

To the six confederate nations Mohawks, Oneidas, Tuscaroras, Onondagas, Cayugas, Senekas from the twelve united Colonies conven'd in Council at Philadelphia

/ Two Strings of Wampum /

Brothers, Sachems & Warriors

We the Delegates from the twelve Provinces viz. New hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the three Lower counties of New castle Kent and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina, now sitting in General Congress at Philadelphia send this talk to you our Brothers. We are sorry you are Number'd chosen and appointed by the people throughout all Their provinces and colonies to meet & sit together in one great council to consult together for the good of this land and speak and act for them.

Brothers /

In our consultation we have judged it proper and necessary to send you this talk as we are upon the same Island that you may be informed of the reason of this great council the situation of our civil constitution and our disposition towards you our Indian brothers / of the three nations and their Allies

/ Three Strings on a small Belt

Brothers and Friends now attend

When our Fathers crossed the great Water and came over to this land the King of England gave them a talk, assuring them that they and their childrn should be his Children and that if they would leave their native country and make settlements and live here

here and buy and sell and trade with their brethren
beyond the Waters, they should still keep hold of the
same covenant chain and enjoy peace. And it was
covenanted that the fields, houses, goods & possessions
which our Fathers should acquire should remain
to them or their own and be their children's for
ever and at their absolute disposal.

Trusting that this covenant should never
be broken our Fathers came a great distance be-
yond the Great waters, laid out their money, they
built houses, cleared fields, raised crops and this
their own labour and industry grew tall & strong.

They have bought, sold and traded with
England according to agreement sending to them
such things as they wanted and taking in Exchange
such things as were wanted here.

The King of England and his people kept
the way open for more than one hundred years,
and by our trade became richer and by a union
with us greater and stronger than the other
Kings and people who live beyond the waters.

All this time they lived in great friendship
with us and we with them, for we are brothers
one blood.

Whenever they were struck we instantly
felt as tho' the blow had been given to us — their
enemies were our enemies.

When ever they went to war we sent
our men to stand by their side and fight for
them and our money to help them and make
them strong.

They thanked us for our love and sent
us good belts and renewed their promises to be one
people for ever.

Brethren & Friends open a kind Ear.

— We are now to tell you of the great evill between the country of King George and the inhabitants and Colonies of America.

Many of his Councellors are proud and wicked men — They perswade the King to break the Covenant chain and not to send us any more good Laws. A considerable number have perswaded him to enter into a new covenant against us and have torn asunder and cast behind their Backs the good old covenant which their ancestors and ours entered into and took strong hold of.

They now tell us they will dip their hand into our pockets without asking, as tho' it was their own, and at their pleasure they will take from us our Charters or written civil constitutions which we love as our lives — Also our plantations our houses and goods whenever they please without asking our leave. — That our people may go to their Islands in the sea, but to this or that particular Island we shall not trade any more — And in case of our non-compliance with their new orders they shut up our Harbours.

This is our present situation — They have many of the kings councellors and servants dealt with us; If we submit or comply with their demand you can easily perceive to what State we will be reduced. Your people labour in the field, they will not know who shall enjoy the crop — If they hunt in the woods it will be uncertain who shall taste the meat or have the skin — If they build houses they will not know whether they may set round the fire side with their wives & child rest — They cannot be sure they shall be permitted to eat, drink & wear the fruits of their own labour and

and industry.

Brothers and Friends of the six nations assembled —

We upon this Island have often spoke and intreated the King and his servants the Quantities that peace and harmony might still continue between us — that we cannot part with one link or lose our hold of the Old Covenant chain which united our Fathers and theirs — that we want to brighten on their chain and keep the way opened as our fathers did.

That we want to live with them as Brothers, labour, Trade, travel abroad, eat and drink in peace. We have often asked them to love us and live in such friendship with us as their fathers did with ours.

We told them that we judged we are exceedingly injured, that they might as well take us as take away our property and the necessaries of life. — We have asked them why they treat us thus? — what has become of our repeated addresses supplications to them? — Who hath shut the ears of the king to the cries of his children in America? No soft answer — no pleasant voice from beyond the water has yet sounded in our ears.

Brothers Thus stands the matter betwixt Old England and America. You Indians know how things are circumstanced in a family — between the Father & Son — This Island may be compared to the son. —

The Father has a numerous family — both at home and upon this Island — He appoints a great number of servants to assist him in the government of his family. In process of time some of his servants grow

grow jarred and disordered — they were delighted to see the boy so clad and walk in so orderly with his pack — They bid the Father endeavour him to enlarge the childs pack — they prevail — the pack increased — the child take it up again — as the weight it might be the Fathers pleasure — speaks but few words — those very few — for he was to offend his Father — this proud and wicked servant finding they had prevailed taught the boy what to say — and stagger under his increased load — By & By they apply to the Father to double the Boys pack because they heard him com plain and without any reason said they — he is a — Rebel — and without any reason suspected — correct him if he complains and severely — The boy to break the Father — did refuse the great burthen in a decent manner — that the pack might be lightened — he could not go any further — humbly asked if the Father in any of their wonderful decreed such a pack for the child — after all the tears and intreaties of the child — the pack is increased — doubled — the child stands a little, while staggering under the weight ready to fall every moment However he intreats the Father once more, tho' so faint he could only lisp out his last humble supplication — and awake — no voice returns — The child concludes the Father could not hear those proud servants had intercepted his supplications or stopped the ears of the Father — He therefore gives one struggle and throws off the pack, and says he cannot take it up again — such a weight will crush him down and kill him — and he can but die if he refuses

Upon this those servants are very wrath and tell

The

The Father many Years Never regarding the Cries of the Children — they bring a great Dog to the Father frighting them to take it on his hand & Bite the Child.

This may serve to Illustrate the present condition of the Kings Americans Subjects in the Child and.

About the 1st Year, we now and then heard a melancholy — and reviving voice from some of the Kings Counsellors who are our Friends and Fast friends in the Parliament when they heard our complaints and cries — they applied to the King also told them wicked servants that this child in America was not a right Boy — it had sufficient reason for crying and if the Cause of its Complaint was neglected it should soon become the voice of a man — plead for justice like a man, and defend its rights and support the Dignity & Honour of the Father

Brothers Listen!

Notwithstanding all our intreaties we have but little hope the King will lend a ready more good Ears by reason of his evil Counsellors — they have persuaded him to send an Army of Soldiers and many ships of war to rob and destroy us — they have shut up many of our harbours — seized and taken into possession many of our ships — the Soldiers have struck the Blow — killed some of our people — the blood now runs of the Kings Americans children — they have also burned our houses, Towns & taken much of our goods

Brothers!

We are now reapitulated to arms, and must be fought or give up our dear constitutions

run

run away and leave our Farms and Houses behind us — This must not be — time the Kings Wicked Councellors will not open their ears, and consider our just complaints and the cause of our weeping — and hath given the blow We are determined, to drive away the Kings Soldiers and to kill and destroy all those wicked men that we find in arms against the peace of the Inhabitants colonies upon this Island — We thank our God we are still — Therefore hope God will be on our side tho we must take up the hatchet and struggle for honour and conquest — but to maintain our civil constitution and Religion for which the very same for which our Fathers left their native land and came to this country?

Brethren & Friends!

By this you will hear the reason that we have now to you — and that you will open a good ear and listen to what we are now going to say — This is a family quarrel between us and old England — You Indians are not concerned in it — We don't wish you to take up the Hatchet against the King troops, but desire you to remain at home and not join with either side — but keep the Hatchet buried deep — In the name and behalf of all our people we ask and desire you to love peace and maintain it, and to love and sympathize with us in our troubles — that the path may be kept open with all our people Yours — to pass and repass without molestation

Brothers! We live upon the same ground with you, the same Island is our common birth place & We desire to sit down under the same tree of peace with you — & there water its roots and cherish its growth

grow with all the Leaves and flourishing branches shall extend to the setting sun and reach the skies.

Brothers observe well!

Speech of Arthur Lee to the Council of the Six Nations of Indians 1784-5.

What it is we have asked of you. Nothing but peace notwithstanding our present extended dominion. If applications should be made to you by any of the Kings unruly and wicked ministers to join in their side - We advise you to deliberate with great wisdom and firmness and to shut your ears to their enticing voices of compliance. For if the Kings troops take away our property and destroy us who are of the same blood with themselves, what can you who are Indians expect from them afterwards?

Therefore we say Brothers take care - hold fast to your covenant chain. You see how our disposition towards you the Six Nations of Indians and your allies. Let this our good talk remain

The Six Nations

at Onondago your central Council house; we depend upon you to send and acquaint your allies to the northward the seven Nations on the River St Laurence that you have this talk fast at the great Council Fire of the six nations. And when they return we invite your great men to come and converse further with us at Albany where we intend to renew the Council fire which you and our Ancestors at sound in great friendship

Brothers & Friends!

We greet you all

Farewell

The Lay Brothers of Intelligence to the Nations

(189)

Mr Jesse Browne

Sir/ Office of finance 4

As the Justice requires the employment of a messenger to ride as soon as possible to the Eastern States for the purpose of bringing on Warrants it becomes my duty to confirm now what was verbally communicated when you was last in Philadelphia. Your accounts being settled you will therefore consider yourself as no longer in public employment, after the 31st of the last month.

I am Sir
Your most obedient Servant
Signed Robert Morris

Extract from Mr Morris's Account
Jesse Browne employed in the Messengers office to go from the Eastern States

1782		
July		100 dlls
Do		250
Oct	Do	350
1783		
Jany		266
Do	April Do	400
23	July	300
Augt		

Dear Sir, New York Jan^y 6^th 1795

I had the honor of writing to you
last by the post that left Trenton just
before I quitted that place and I should
not so soon have troubled you again, if
it were not to furnish you with the very
excellent pamphlet that accompanies this
letter — Doctor Price has lately sent over a
few of those pamphlets to the President of Congress
and left the disposal of them to him — I am
very sure that I shall gratify the Doctors
feelings as well as my own, when I
request you acceptance of one of them —
We have no news here, except the account
but by the packet from England just arrived,
and which is current in Town — That the war
between the Emperor & Holland has certainly
commenced

67

18

A small engagement, near Sillo upon the Scheldt, has taken place, in which a Dutch regiment is said to have lost 20 or 30 men. Prussia is said to have taken part with Holland, & the Empress of Prussia with the Emperor — It is probable that this quarrel if it proceeds, will embroil the greatest part of Europe — I hope Great Britain will find herself compelled to engage.

My best respects attend your Lady.

I am dear Sir, with the truest esteem & regard sincerely yours

Richard Henry Lee

The Honorable

John Rutledge Esqr

New York Jan.y 24th 1785

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose you an Act of Congress for forming a federal Court to determine a controversy, respecting territory, that subsits between the States of Massachusets and New York. The future concord and happiness of the United States depends so eminently upon the wise and early settlement of such disputes that both Congress and the Parties will be well pleased to find this court a full one, by the acceptance of all the Judges appointed to form it.

I have the honor to be with the highest esteem and regard

Sir, your Most Obedient and very humble Servant

Richard Henry Lee

Circular.

New York January 24th 1785

Sir.

I have the honor to enclose to your Excellency some late communications from the Ministers plenipotentiary of these United States a Paris, together with an Act of Congress on that subject— Much inconvenience to the American Ministers abroad, being apprehended from improper publications of their letters, hath induced Congress to desire that these informations may be kept from the public Eye— The precarious state of our public credit abroad is so powerfully expressed in these letters as to render a comment unnecessary— They prove incontestably the necessity of immediate, vigorous measures for supplying the Treasury of the United States, that justice may be punctually done to those excellent friends who assisted us in the day of our distress— Your enlightened Legislature Sir will see the close connection that subsists between National safety and National faith — that the loss of the latter will ever have the most malignant effects upon the former.— The Congress request that your Excellency will lay these communications before the general Assembly of your State, with the Act of Congress respecting them..

I have the honor to be with sentiments of the

trust esteem and regard. Sir.

Your excellency's

Most Obedient & very humble

Servant. Richard Henry Lee

Mount Vernon Feb.y 8.th 1785.

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Dear Sir,

Since my last I have had the honor to receive your favors of the 26.th of December, & 9.th of January.

I have now the pleasure to inform you, that the Assemblies of Virginia & Maryland have enacted laws for improving & extending the Navigation of Potomack, of which the inclosed is a copy. They are exactly similar in both States.— at the same time, and at the joint & equal expence of the two Governments, the sum of 6666 2/3 dollars are voted for opening & keeping in repair a road from the highest practicable navigable part of this River, to that of the River Cheat, or Monongahela, & Commissioners (who are appointed to survey & lay out the same) shall judge most convenient, & beneficial to the Western Settlers.— and have concurred in an application

for

ture to the State of Pennsylvania for permission to open another road from Fort Cumberland to the Youghiogany, at the three forks or Turkey foot. ——

A similar Bill to the one enclosed is passed by our Assembly respecting the Navigation of James River, & the communication between it & the waters of the Great Kanhawa.— and the Executive is authorized, by a resolve, to appoint Commissioners to examine & report the most convenient course for a canal between Elizabeth River & the Waters of Pasquotank with an estimate of the expence, and if the best communication should be found to require the concurrence of the State of North Carolina thereto, to make application to the Legislature thereof, accordingly. —

Towards the latter part of the year 1783, I was honored with a letter from the Countess of Huntingdon, chiefly recommending to my attention the Interests of Religion & Christianity among the Tribes of Indians, inhabiting our Western Territory. —

Territory, & expressing a desire that my advice & assistance might be afforded her, to carry this charitable design into execution. — I wrote her Ladyship for answer that, it would in no means comport with the pleasure of retirement I had premised myself to take an active or responsible part in this business, and that it was my belief, there would be no other way to effect her pious & benevolent design, but by persuading the Indians to adopt a state of greater civilization, but that I would give every aid in my power consistent with that case, & tranquillity I meant to devote the remainder of my life to facilitate her pious service. — I have been favored with other letters from her, a few days ago, under cover from Sir James Wright (received) by the Packet herewith inclosed. —

As the Plan contemplated by Lady Huntingdon, according to the Letters exhibited, is not only unexceptionable in its design and tendency but has humanity & charity for its

object

object - and may, as I conceive, be made subservient to valuable political purposes, I take the liberty of laying the matter before you, for your free & candid sentiments thereon. - The communication I make of this matter to you, Sir, is in a private way; but you are at such liberty, to communicate the Plan of Lady Huntingdon to the members individually; or officially to Congress, as the importance & propriety of the measure may strike you. -

My reasons for it are these, - 1st. I do not believe that any of the States (when she has written (unless it may be New York) are in circumstances since their cessions of territory, to comply with the requisitions respecting empty States; for it has been privately hinted to me (though not to become a matter of public notoriety) that notwithstanding the independent expression of the address, respecting the numbers or occupation of the emigrants (which was purposely omitted, to avoid giving alarms

alarm in England) - the former as the great & the useful artizans among them, may, 2d. because such an emigration, if it should accomplish the object therein, besides the humane & charitable purposes which would thereby be answered, would be of immense political consequence: for even if this should not succeed to her Ladyship's wishes, it must nevertheless be of considerable importance, from the increase of population by orderly & well disposed characters, who would at once, form a barrier; & attempt the conversion of the Savages without any expence to the Union ~~[illegible]~~

I see but one objection to a compact unmixed, & powerful settlement of this kind (if it should ever become so) - the weight of which you will judge of - it is (and her ladyship seems to have been aware of it, and endeavors to guard against it) placing a people, in a body, upon our exterior, ~~[illegible]~~ (only, more to Canada) who may keep us in the

Fine

strong prejudices against us, and our forms of government, and equally strong attachments to the Country & Constitution they leave, without the means, being detached & unmixed with citizens of different sentiments, of having them eradicated. —

Her Ladyship has spoken so forcibly & feelingly on the seductive, & pernicious purposes of the plan, that no language of which I am possessed can add aught, to express her observations. and no place in my opinion, bids so fair to answer nefarious, as that spot in Gentleman's Map marked Miami Village & Fort. — From hence there is a communication to all parts by water, and all which I may judge from, there ought to be a Port!

Do not think it strange, my good Sir, that I send you these original papers from Lady Huntingdon. — Many, mistakingly, think Lord ease, & that kind of banquility which would prove irksome for want of employment — but at no

period

period of my life — for in the eight years I served the public have I been obliged to write so much on myself as I have done since my retirement. — Was this confined to friendly communications, & to my own business, it would be equally pleasing & satisfactory. But I have a thousand references of old matters with which I am unwilling to be troubled, but which nevertheless must receive some answer. — Here, with applications for certificates, copies of Papers, &c. &c. &c. deprive me of my usual & necessary exercise. — I have tried to get a Secretary, or Clerk to take the drudgery of this business off my hands, but hitherto in vain. — Whatever might be my wonder at my having written original papers, upon so interesting a subject, I think it incumbent on me to assign the reason. — But I pray you to be assured that I have no other motive for it. —

Please to accept my thanks for the Pamphlet you sent me. — and the resolutions respecting the temporary

I made but few a[illegible]

any of permanent residence of Congress
— If I might be permitted to hazard a opinion of the latter I would say that by the time your federal buildings on the banks of the Delaware, all in the point of a (when compared to the State, centre of the United States) angle, are fit for the reception of Congress it will be found that they are very inconveniently placed, for the seat of the Empire of which I have no doubt you will live to see a second edition, in one more convenient.
— If the Union continues and this is not the case I will appear to be placed amongst the false prophets, & suffer for evil predictions. -

The letter which accompanied
Copies of my former, & which arrived too late for the Marq.ᵈ de la Fayette I pray you to forward to him by the Packet. With great esteem & regard

I have the hon.ᵇ to be
Sir
Your most Obed.ᵗ Serv.ᵗ
Geo. Washington

His Excell.ᶜʸ

Dear Sir

New York feb.y 14th 1785

In reply to your favor of december the 14th I had the honor to write to you from Trenton, and I mentioned an enclosed letter from you for the Marquis Fayette which coming to hand after the Marquis had sailed, I wished to know your pleasure, whether I should forward it to France or return it to you - I have not been honored with your commands upon that point. Soon after my arrival in this city, I sent you one of the few pamphlets addressed to the President of Congress by Doctor Price - it will give me pleasure to know that you have received it. The commissioners for treating with the western Indians did yesterday present to Congress the Treaty that they have made with the Wyandots, Delawares &c. A copy of the Treaty I have now the honor to enclose you. The Shawanese, you observe, are not there - it seems that persons, disaffected to us,

prevented them from meeting the Commissioners
The Wyandots being stated as their superior
may perhaps prevent any mischief from the
Shawanese not being included in this Treaty—
Another Treaty will be held with the more South
Indians in the spring or first of the Summer— The
policy, seems to be a good one, of enclosing as it
were, the Indian nations within our acknowledg
territory— It will probably tend to civilize them
sooner, and by preventing intrigues with them,
render them more certainly our friends.

The Court of Spain has appointed Mr. Gardoqui
their Chargé des affairs to the United States, and
we have reason soon to expect his arrival— We
are to apprehend a very firm ostensible demand
from him, of the exclusive navigation of the
Mississippi. His secret orders touching an
ulterior agreement may be another thing.

Time and wise negotiation will unfold the
very important matter, and I hope may accord
to the U. S. and those Individual States concerned

the great advantages that will be derived from a free navigation of that river.

My respects, if you please, to your Lady, whose health I hope is perfectly reestablished.

I have the honor to be, with the truest respect and esteem, Sir your most obedient and very humble servant

Richard Henry Lee.

P. S. I was honored with your favor of the 8th of Feb.y with it's enclosures after the above letter was written. I will shortly reply to its contents, and your Letter for the Marquis shall be forwarded to France.

R. H. Lee

Dear Sir

Edmundsbury Feb.y 21. 1785.

(N° 295)

I was not till a few days ago that y.r esteemed favr. of Decem.r 19.th came to hand, or I should sooner by a prompt acknowledgement have testified my pleasure in the renewal of Our correspondence: It will indeed be carried on much to y.r disadvantage situated as you are in the centre of Intelligence, and I a domestic man who seldom leave home, but in my Official Visit to Richmond twice a year: however as you know the terms, and kindly make the proposition, you know where to charge the Loss.

That the Court of Spain should make an unreasonable demand on America, does not much surprize me, as I believe she was always a secret Enemy to Our independence. That her claiming an exclusive right to the Navigation of the Mississippi, is of that nature I think cannot be doubted, when we reflect on the subject as it is influenced by the rights of Nature, the Law of Nations and subsisting treaties. Were it not for the force of the latter, I believe there are few men of Judgment, would doubt but that the Emperor of Germany would be right in insisting upon the free Navigation of the Scheldt for the Citizens of Antwerp: indeed many think he ought not to be bound by those treaties, w.ch being so contrary to the natural rights of his subjects, must have been extorted from his Ancestors by untoward circumstances. If Spain persists in this demand she may perhaps, as Great Britain did by the late War, precipitate the evil she fears & wishes to prevent.

I doubt not but that the Court of London, may keep a Lurking Eye on the Dominion of America, and keep things in suspence 'til they discover whether the Continental War, affords them any prospect of recovering it - I am sorry y.r hopes of having these disputes adjusted before the Commencement of that War, are frustrated, by a Declaration of it having taken place, if we are rightly informed. In their pretence for withholding the Western Posts, or Amount of our not repealing the Laws w.ch Impeded the recovery of British debts, they forget that they were the first Aggressors, in not restoring the slaves they so forcefully according to that Treaty. Whether they are stimulated to this Conduct by the exiled Tories and refugees, and that their power of doing it is greater than it would have been, if they had returned amongst us, is a point difficult to decide - Those who have returned, do not in general manifest a disposition favourable to our Government, and whether they do not secretly give that misinformation, w.ch is charged to the Inhabitants of Port Roseway, cannot be easily ascertained. But this as it may, I hope our Conduct will be just and manly, if we are forced into another War, bear it as men ought to do, all unavoidable misfortunes. However as such an event would indeed be truly unhappy for us, we ought, by Negotiation, to use every possible means to Avert it.

I am told our Assembly have pass'd a new Militia Law, of a more severe nature than former - I have not seen it, but am of Opinion that if the meetings for exercise are made more frequent, it will prove mischief rather than good, as I never discovered other fruits from those meetings, than calling the Industrious from their Labour to the great disgust and the Injury of the community, and affording the idle an opportunity of dissipation. I rather think that in time of peace to keep them enrolled & oblige them to meet once a year to shew their Arms & Ammunition - to provide Magazines of those, & in case of a War to throw the Militia into an Arrangement like our minute Plan, for defence until a regular Army can be raised, is the most Eligible System, leaving the people at liberty to pursue their labour in peace, & acquire wealth of great service in War. one part of this new Law is making much noise; It seems all the Militia officers are disbanded, and the appointment fix'd in the Governor & Council, who have appointed a subordinate Council, consisting of 6 or 7 in each County to recommend the field Officers to whom the appointment of the Captains & Subalterns is to be confined. The Caroline Council, I hear, after protesting ag.st their appointment gave it as their Opinion, that they knew no cause to change the Appointments at present made of those Officers. I fear I shall tire you at first, & therefore will spare you at present with only assuring you that I am with much esteem

D.r Sr. Y.r aff.e & Ob.t Serv.t

Edm.d Pendleton

Edmund Pendleton.

His Excellency

Richard Henry Lee Esq.

New York

No 3/6

21st Feb 1785
Hon. Com. Affrs
Lee &c &c
& Jno Jay 1785

(~~No. 316.~~)

(No 895)

Dear Sir, New York feb. 27th 1795

I am now to thank you for the letter that you did me the honor to write to me on the 8th of this month, and which I received on the 17th with the enclosures.

Sir James Jay had mentioned the [illegible] of Lady Huntingdon to me previous to the receipt of your letter, and at the same time that your packet reached mine, there came one to Congress from Governor Henry with her Ladyships letter and plan enclosed, which the Governor strongly recommended. It was presently observed that upon which the lands had been ceded to the United States did not leave it in the power of Congress to dispose of them for any purpose but for paying the debts of the public by a full and fair sale of all the ceded lands. It was indeed remarked, that those religious people whom her Ladyship had in prospect to transplant, & fix on our frontier were

were remarkable in the late war for an unanimous and bitter enmity to the American cause, and as such might form a dangerous settlement at so great a distance, contiguous to the Indians, & easily accessible to Canada. Especially in the present very unfriendly temper of mind that we know the British nation possesses with respect to us. It was therefore ordered that Governor Henry's Letter with the enclosures should be filed, but nothing more done in the affair. Finding this, I concluded it not necessary to shew your Letter, either publickly or privately. I have therefore returned to you, Lady Huntingdon packet. It appears to me, that Georgia is the most likely State in the Union to close with her Ladyship, if the latter argument mentioned in Congress should not prevail with it. I am sorry to hear that you are so interrupted by applications that ought not to be made. I hope however that you will not suffer them so to prevent your necessary exercise, as to injure your health.

The

The investigating and opening our inland navigation is an object of great importance and well worthy of your patronage. I believe, and hope, that it will be found by experience to be of great utility both to the public and to the private adventurer. Very little has yet been done in Congress respecting the Western Country - but a very full discussion of that business must soon come on, when it is to be expected that our affairs in that quarter will be put under better regulation than they have hitherto been. The misfortunes that experience & reason both join in proving to flow from the Sessions of Congress being held in one large City, produced the necessity of determining on some place of easy attainment for the federal government, and the unhappy neglect of attendance on the part of the Southern States has furnished an opportunity for a Majority in Congress to fix on a spot too eccentric. My wishes would have been to have gone further South, but of two evils it was best to choose the least, and therefore we thought it better to fix somewhere in retirement than to continue wandering, or to fix in the midst of dissipation.

2 We had but just determined upon sending a Minister to the Court of London (Mr. John Adams) when this 28th Feb.y, we receive a letter from our Commissioners for making treaties &c. at Paris, the copy of a letter from the Duke of Dorset, Minister from London to Paris to our Ministers, in answer to a proposition from them for making a treaty of Commerce with G. Britain for settling other points of difficulty arising from the late peace - for which his Grace declares the determination of his Court to be ready to settle all their affairs upon terms of equal & lasting ju. to both countries whensoever the U. States shall send to their Court a Minister properly authorised for the business - This Court will at least and we shall shortly make the experiment, their sincerity - The King of Prussia thinks there will be no war between the Emperor & Holland and indeed it does now seem probable that his judgement will prove right - I have sent the Letter you committed to my care to the Marquis on to France by the Packet.

I have the honor to be, with the highest esteem and regard dear Sir your most obedient & very humble servant

Richard Henry Lee

Edmundsbury Feb.y 28.th 1785. 280

Dear Sir

I have not been favd. with any Letter from you since that of December 19.th, Nor do I expect another until after you shall have received mine accepting of your kind offer of reviving a former correspondence. I have nothing worth communicating of foreign or domestic Intelligence and therefore it shall be the purpose of this to make a few observations on some of our late laws. You'l have been informed that an Act has passed for incorporating the Episcopal Church, the Minister where there is one, and Vestry are made the Corporation in each Parish, with power to take care of the property, and to elect a layman to accompany the Priest to a Convention, where rules are to be formed for the Government of the Church, and providing for a succession in the Ministry. The Vestries, as many of them are said not to be of that Church, are all dissolved, and a new election is to be made on Easter-Monday by the Members of the Church only: their power I am told is confined to the Affairs of the Church, and that there are to be Overseers of the Poor in each Parish elected by the people at Large, to make the right of Representation as extensive as the power of Taxation. And to avoid All suspicion of partiality in the Assembly to that Church, the Act was preceeded by a Resolution that they would pass laws for incorporating any Society of Christians who should desire it. I am not able to discover in this Law any thing which can justly alarm any other Society, no more than in another Bill (which is put off til the next Session) for a general Assessment to support Religious teachers, with a right of Appropriation in the payer: Yet in both some over sagacious Gent.n can spy designs to revive the former Establishment, which I believe do not exist in the minds of any member of that Church, the Clergy & a few Monarchy men excepted. A recommendation is gone forth to elect Members to meet in Convention at Richmond in May, when I am told the Clergy mean to recommend the Plan adopted in New. York, as the ground of proceeding. and so much for these Laws.

An Assize Law hath at length passed, but its Operation suspended til the first of January next, I suppose with intention to collect the sense of the Country upon its propriety and Utility in general as well as upon the particular plan of it, and give an Opportunity for repealing or altering it, before it had begun to Operate. a deep reflection on the Subject has long convinced me that this measure is unexceptionable, and absolutely necessary for the speedy and easy Administration of Justice in this extensive Country; but whether we are arrived at the period proper for its adoption, depends upon many circumstances too delicate for me to mention, especially as the decision depends on others & not on me; with them therefore I leave it. The Sheriffs complain of great difficulty in the Collection of the taxes, which I believe proceeds from a Struggle between the Merch.ts & Planters to lessen & keep up the price of Tobacco - Why the Assembly did not continue to receive in Commodities, I know not, but am perswaded they have injured both the people and revenues by the measure. Adieu for the present. I am

Dr.r Sir . . .

Y.r mo. aff.e & ob.t Serv.t

Edm.d Pendleton

His Excellency

Richard Henry Lee Esq.^r

in

New York

Pr Slator

20 Feb. 1785

Mr. Channellon

Private

Dear Sir

Edmondsbury March the 7. 178[illegible]

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Sostday is again arrived without my having received a letter from you, or acquired any Intelligence worth communicating. The Continental Storm in Europe having blown over, the Systems of the Courts of London & Madrid, may possibly change, particularly the latter, who can promise itself very little Countenance (in shutting up the Navigation of the Mississippi from so great a Number of its settlers, against Natural right and afair construction of treaties,) from those powers who have in their Mediation, compelled the opening of the Scheldt, against applicat & repeated treaties. The President is strong and applies a spur.

People here are sitting in Judgment upon a late Vote of Congress appropriating a sum of money towards raising a new City for their residence. They call in question the power of Congress to put their hand into the public Purse for this purpose; and admitting the power, arraign their prudence in the exercise of it at a time, when our faith in the discharge of former engagements, calls for the utmost exertion of our abilities in finance, & perhaps requires more than can be complied with, without a degree of distress which may endanger our Infant Government. pray enable me to advocate Congress on these heads, which at present I feel my self unequal to.

You'l have heard that the Act providing for the payment of british debts, was one of two that was left unsigned by the Speaker of the Delegates for want of an hour at the close of the Session. I suppose it will be thought in Britain, that this was a contrivance to suspend the operation of the remedy, inadequate as they may deem it; indeed we are told that the North British Merchants have applied to their Ministry to inforce this part of the Treaty. In the mean time the learned in the Law are divided here upon a question whether the Act, having passed both branches of the Legislature, is not in force, tho' it wants the Signature of one of the Speakers? I wish no parts of the law were subject to more important consequences than the decision of that question. I am with great regard,

D[r] Sir Yr. aff[e] & ob[t]. Serv[t]

Edm[d] Pendleton

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March 7. 1785

Confidential

His Excellency

Richard Henry Lee Esq.

New York

March 7. 1785
Chancellor
Confidential
Letter
to
be answered

My dear Sir (No 96) Philad.a 13. March 85.

The Bearer Mr. Adam Hoops applys to Congress for some appointment in the new Back Country - gives me leave to recommend him to your interest; He is a good Whig, has been an officer in our Army since the beginning of y.e War & is a young Gentleman of decent manners & good morals, & I am informed, well acquainted with surveying &c. I will thank you for promoting his wishes

Your Nephew wishes to spend a Week or two with his Uncle when it will be most convenient to you - it must be before the 10.th of April as our supreem Court begins then.

have you appointed our Bro.r A. L. Minister P. to Spain or Holland? A Bill Jommed now both.

Our Lawyers Bill for Services & Expences in Congress, & Commissioners Office, Paper, Ink &c. Stationary, Fuel, Candles, Postages, Expresses, Journeys, Attendance, Clerk hire, Books, Maps, Charts, Printing, Translations, Copying, Engraving, Medals, Models, Machines, Repairs, Incidentals, Contingencies, Miscellaneous.

No 434.

His Excellency

Richard Henry Lee Esqr.

President of Congress.

New York.

favor of

Mr. Adam Hoops.

Dr. Stephens (Penna
16 Letters
(1796)
1795
19
Recommendations

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Extrait d'une Lettre de Paris en date du
quatorze Mars 1785.

Il n'y a veritablement que l'Empereur qui
puisse vous dire positivement s'il y aura ou
s'il n'y aura pas Guerre cette année. Tout ce
que l'on sait c'est que les propositions adressées à
dépend de lui de les accepter ou de les rejetter.
Si je vous avois une opinion cependant, et
vous la dire, c'est qu'il n'y aura pas de Guerre
cette prochaine. L'affaire de la Cession de
la Baviere est encore obscure pour le
public, ce qui paroit bien certain cependant
c'est que le Electeur Palatin a l'obligation
de deux de ses Ministres, et du pere Beaune
son confesseur a fait une cession en bonne
forme à l'Empereur comme Chef de la
maison d'Autriche. L'Empereur lui cede en
échange tous les Pays bas Autrichiens. Cette
affaire nous a été à peine connue jusqu'au
moment ou le Duc des Deux ponts a

informé le Roy que l'Empereur de Russie le pressoit fortement d'accéder à l'échange. Ce Prince y est opposé. L'Empereur en même tems a fait presser notre Cour de donner son consentement au traité. Nous avons répondu que nous ne pouvions prendre un parti sur une matière aussi importante sans avoir consulté l'Empire, et le Roi de Prusse, et que le Roi même en sa qualité de Garant du traité de Westphalie étoit dans l'obligation d'empêcher toutes les atteintes qui pourroient être portées à la constitution et aux droits de chacun. Cette réponse a causé le plus grand mécontentement à Vienne, où l'on s'étoit faussement imaginé que nous verrions avec joie tout arrangement qui nous débarasseroit du voisinage de l'Empereur. Nous sommes sur cette affaire en correspondance très suivie avec

le Roi de Prusse. Elle est certainement
suspendue par notre opposition. mais il
n'est que trop probable qu'il y a un
arrangement indépendant de tout
commandement étranger; et que la guerre
sera renouvellée à la mort de l'Electeur
Palatin, nous sommes en attendant dans
les meilleurs termes possibles avec le
Roi de Prusse.

Dr. Sir (1397) Edmundsbury March 14. 1785

Another Post day is arrived and no letter from you, nor other Intelligence, except an agreeable Account, not so well Attested as I could wish, that tobacco is up at nine Dollars ℔ Cent.m at New-York. We really wanted such a Stimulus to our Traders, who taking advantage of the demand for Cash, which the collection of taxes made on the planters, shewed a disposition to reduce the prices very low indeed; However they are mistaken, their Conduct will stop the collection & not effect their purposes; the planters will retain their Crops for a better price at all risques of distress &c. Surely the purchasers at New-York would find their Interest in coming here with their Cash, rather than in laying it out there at the above price.

I had hoped that our annual elections would have put a stop to every species of bribery, and Restored perfect freedom in the choice of our representatives in General Assembly, but am sorry to find myself disappointed. In a neighbouring County (as I am told) three Candidates have employed as many Months in canvassing, not only from house to house, but at frequent and expensive treats; a species of bribery the more dangerous, since it is masqued, and appears not in its plain shape as a piece of offered gold would. In our County, a new declaring Candidate at the last Court, made a sacrifice of much wine, bottles and glasses to the fortunate Deities —

I cannot, however, agree with some Gent.n that for this, or any other reason we ought to change the term of electing to Septennial, or even triennial, but am of Opinion we should wait Patiently for the good effects of the Annual choice, which tho' slow, will be certain & permanent.

I begin to be impatient for a letter, as the time approaches, if not arrived, when Interesting Intelligences may be expected from Europe — pray direct any letters to Fredricksburg, where the rider will take and deliver them to me. Farewell for this time. I am

Yours as usual
Edm.d Pendleton

(N° 397) 1 Nov 24 1

Pendleton

His Excellency

Richard Henry Lee Esq.r

at

New-York

Answered on the
26 March 85
from Mr Chancellor
Pendleton

Nov 24

Mount Vernon 15. March 1785

Dear Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your Excellency's favor of the 14th. of Feb.y and pray you to accept my thanks for the copy of the treaty with the western Indians, with which you were so obliging as to furnish me. —

From the accot. given me last Fall, whilst I was on the Ohio, I did not expect such a cession of territory from the tribes that met. — The Shawnese are pretty numerous, and among the most warlike of the Ohio Indians, — but if the subscribing Indians mean to keep good faith, and a treaty should be favorably negotiated with the more southern Indians, their spirit must yield, or, they might easily be exterpated. —

The wisdom of Congress will now be called upon to fix a happy medium price on these Lands — and to point out the most advantageous mode of seating them, so as ~~to~~ that Law & good

Government

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government may be administered - and the Union strengthened & supported thereby. — Progressive seating, I conceive, is the only means by which this can be effected; and unless, in the scale of politics more than one new State is found necessary, at this time, I believe, would be found the least, & more pleasant as the advantages than the deeries. — The latter are more advancive of individual interest, than the public welfare. —

As you will have the whole address, jealousy & pride which are characteristic of the Spanish nation, entered with, it is more than probable that Mr. Gardoqui will express a good deal of trouble, respecting the navigation of the Lower Mississippi. — To me, it should seem that the true policy of that Government would be to make New Orleans a free mart, instead of shutting its ports. — but their ideas of trade are very confined I believe. —

I take the liberty of putting a letter under cover of this to Mr Lee

Mr.

Mr. Washington offers her respectful compliments to you. —

I have the honor to be with great esteem & regard,

Sir

Your most Obed. Hble Servt

G. Washington

His Excelly
Richd H. Lee.

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G. Washington

15 March 1785

Paris March the 16th 1785 (282

My dear Sir

In this intelligence I may think myself the trifle for the providence of longer to read, I have communicated to this Secretary for foreign affairs to whom I beg leave to refer your Excellency - But the personal tribute of my Regard and affection I can only trace myself to perform - those sentiments, my good friend, have been long engraved in my heart - to you I owe my first obligations - and to be obliged to you, has ever been to me a most pleasing idea - highly sensible of your friendship and in value, I am happy in every opportunity to remind you of me; and I know you will be pleased to hear that I am well - and happy with my family and friends - the situation of affairs in Europe that is highly proper for me to arrive at the time I did - but matters are now tending a pacific turn, and since my return this land to persons in high under the idea of treating, I more than ever lament the absence of a title which I fondly hope to renew in a little time - what has been given to foreign trade in the west Indies, as this is to those of which had been demanded, seems a source of complaint among the Merchants of this country, who might be more tractable, had they

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a large share in the American trade with Europe - The Spirit of Great Britain seem to me not Hostile as some pretend, But Averse to the United States, which, By the by is a very foolish policy - I am glad to hear you are seriously taking up a plan for the Navigation of your Rivers in Virginia - you will, I fear, find the Assembly very obstinate - But every means must be taken to Reason them into proper measures - above all, my dear Sir, do attend to the Confederation, to Union and Harmony, to every Regulations that can give Security to the Commerce, Energy to the Government, faith to the public Debtors - This Congress is an Enlightened one, and the fate of future Ages does particularly depend upon what will be done this year impossible Sir will it be for me to express the pleasure I feel when I hear any thing that Reveals to the Glory of America! Adieu, my dear Sir remember me most affectionately to All your Family, and Edward in particular - my dear Compliments also wait upon Mr. Williams - should you write to Mr. Jackson, Send my Love to him - God bless you, my good friend with every sentiment of affection and Respect I have the honour to be

Your Excellency's Most humble Servant

Th: Jefferson

My Compliments wait upon your Colleagues in the Delegation - I hope Mr. Mercer is married by this time.

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La Fayette

Dr. Sir

Edmundsbury Virg.a April 18.th 1785 (286

An Indisposition has prevented my paying you my respects for some weeks past, and am yet very feeble, however I have taken up the pen to thank you for your very obliging favr. of the 17.th & 26.th of March. I am truly sensible of the almost unremitted demands of Office upon your time, (and concerned to find that ill health is superadded.) I hope the approaching Warm season, Salutary to age, will remove) and whilst I acknowledge how much the value of a letter is increased by that circumstance, I am to intreat you will not let y.r Solicitudes interfere with business or health. I will be thankful for a letter when a leisure moment turns up, and you are quite at ease.

I think the slow movements of the Emperor towards the field, strongly indicate his intention to make an amicable end of the dispute; and "true it is 'his pity but Pity it is 'his true", that he will probably be yielding, loose much Political Character in Europe; for to a Philosophic mind it would appear more rational to yield a small claim, however just in itself & useful to a few of his Citizens, & wait for some more convenient season for attaining it, than precipitately to involve his Country & perhaps all Europe in a War, in the event of which nothing would be certain, except the loss of much blood & Treasure.

Spain has probably hostile Intentions, but if it be true that she has begun by a Squabble with Britain about the Musquito Shores, and her South Americans are in ill humour with her Government, she may find her hands full of employment without disturbing us.

I am glad to hear that the European Powers lend an Attentive Ear to propositions for treaties of Commerce, a Subject more Sonorous to an American than War. I can't help thinking that the British Court are right in having all propositions between them & us, agitated either in London or America. Indeed during the War & in the Treaties for putting an end to it, Paris was very properly fixed on as the Rendezvous of the Plenipo's, but in peace the case is altered, and we have only to take care that we enter into no engagements inconsistent with good faith to France, & satisfy that Court of it, by communicating what is done, as become friends. I hope Mr. Adams will find the Court of London sincere in her professions on this Subject.

Noise and dissipation are stated enemies to wisdom and deliberation in public Councels in their Neighbourhood, and I should think that consideration alone a sufficient reason for the determination of Congress to found a new City for their Session, if they could there be secure of the wished for retirement; but I fear they will carry with them the seeds of those evils wherever they go: Pardon me, Sir, I dont mean in their Conduct or dispositions; but considering them as the American Court, the residence of foreign Ministers & their suites, as well as the Rendezvous of all foreign Travellers of distinction. I fear that virtues and quiet will be short lived in y.r new City.

I am happy to find that y.r Sentiments accord with mine on the subject of a General Assessment, as I know they formerly did on that of Circuit Courts. I hear there are considerable Clamours against both, & can't foresee what will probably be the decision of the next

Assembly upon either; but as your reasoning on both the short is very forceable I know I shall have yr. pardon for publishing that as an Extract as it may be useful to the Members, who I fear will read it, as I can truly say that I have heard of but one that elected who is acquainted w.th business, & the not a very industrious one. I shall never publish any Intelligence w.ch may be supposed to come to you from our Ministers abroad, without particular permission. There seems to be an unconcerd Calm attending the Impost that when Rhode Island had just come into the measure, an Opposition should be found in the Senates of New-York; and so I suppose they will the in the black Ball one after another & always defeat it.

Govern.r Harrison has lost his Election in Charles City, which has impules, I hear, to the intrigues of his old friend the Speaker & is as usual very angry, that he should meet w.th this reward from the people for 26 years faithful service. I am with my best wishes for yr. health & every sentiment of esteem & regard, D.r Sir

Yr. aff.e & ob.t Serv.t

Edm.d Pendleton

10 April 1805.

Hon'ble
Edm.d Pendleton
Esq.r to be answ.d
& Ld was answered on the
10th May 1805

E. Pendleton
1st Apr 85

Richard Henry Lee Esq.r

New. York

His Excellency

Private

Auteuil April 29. 1785

Dear Sir

The Appointment of a Secretary of foreign Affairs, interrupts the official Correspondence with your Excellency, and I know too well the constant Employment of the Time of the President of Congress to flatter myself with Hopes of many private Letters.

I may not however suffer my Son to return home, as he must go by the way of New York. without a Letter of Introduction to the President especially as to old a Friend of his Father and Zealous a Supporter of the Rights of his Country as at present in the Chair. it is now near eight years Since I left you in Congress, and I have not found the Service abroad less hazardous or more pleasing than at home. I am so little in Love with it, that instead of breeding my Son to the Diplomatic Trade and Expectations, he is going to Colledge and the Bar, where he cannot fail

to find more Pleasure and Profit and less Inconvenience than his Father did. at least such are my Wishes and Hopes.

I perceive, I have lately received a browncing in Congress, and perhaps not wholly unmerited. When Astronomers are calculating the Motions of the heavenly Bodies, they are often obliged to neglect les infinitment petites, that their Results may be the more certain. — I do not reckon however the "Debts" and the "Slaves" among those infinitment petites. They are great and important Quantities, and shall have a proportional Attention paid to them. Let me beg of you Sir, to urge the Necessity of sending me every Information upon these and all other Subjects committed in any measure to my Care, which can ascertain the Numbers and Value of the Negroes and other Property carried off in violation of the Treaty the quantity and circumstances attending the Debts the Measures taken by the States to prevent the Oppression of the Citizens by the Sudden Execution and the necessity of them, and the probable

advantages even to the Creditors themselves, from the delay. — Coll Smith who the Marquis informs me is to assist me in England, will no doubt bring with him much Information upon these Subjects. I have not the Pleasure to know that Gentleman, but he shall have all the respect and regard from me which the Relation between us requires.

With great and sincere Esteem and Respect I have the Honour to be Sir your most obedient and most humble Servant.

John Adams

His Excellency Richard Henry Lee Esqr
President of Congress.

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Sept 29. 1785

John Adams

N.B. A similar Letter was written to the Governors of Connecticut, Rhode Island & Georgia

His excellency

Governor Livingston

New York April 30th 1785

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose to your Excellency an Act of Congress that has been produced by a very pressing state of the public affairs. Your Excellency will observe that exclusive of other important business, Congress point to two objects particularly, the requisition for the present year, and an Ordinance for disposing of lands in the western Territory. The honor and justice of the United States is much concerned in the former, and upon the wise, speedy, and effectual execution of the latter, essentially depends the future ease, happiness and prosperity of the people. It is indeed true that thinner houses are competent to the first digestion and preparation of business like this, but such is the nature of the federal constitution that a full Congress is necessary to the final completion of Objects great as those which are now under consideration — I am therefore, by desire of Congress, to request that your Excellency will be pleased to exert your fullest influence with the Delegates of your State to repair immediately to Congress.

I have the honor to be with great respect and esteem, Sir, Your Excellencys

most Obedient Servant

Richard Henry Lee

New York April 30th 1785

Sir

I have the honor to enclose to your Excellency an Act of Congress that has been produced by a very pressing state of the public affairs— Your Excellency will observe that exclusive of other important business, Congress point to two objects particularly, the requisition for the present Year, and an Ordinance for disposing of lands in the Western Territory— The former of these much concerns the honor and justice of the United States; and the future ease, happiness and prosperity of the people depend essentially upon the wise, speedy and effectual execution of the latter. It is indeed true that thinner Houses are competent to the first digestion and preparation of business like this, but such is the nature of the federal constitution that a full Congress is necessary to

to the final completion of Objects great as those which are now under consideration — I am therefore, by desire of Congress, to request that your Excellency will be pleased to exert your fullest influence with the Delegates of your State, to repair immediately to Congress —

I have the honor to be with great respect and esteem, Sir. your Excellency's

most Obedient and very humble Servant

Richard Henry Lee. P.

His Excellency Governor Vandyke

Dear Sir, New York May 3.d 1795

I have long had a letter pre=
=pared for you in answer to your last favr
which I have kept for the honorable Mr.
Pitigreaves to be the bearer of, as he proposed
to visit you on his return to North Carolina;
and the more especially as his stay has been
occasioned by the necessity of seeing the very
important ordinance passed for selling the
western lands, which I wished you to have
in its perfected state - The principal
design of this letter is, to introduce to your
Mr. Graham, and his Lady the justly
celebrated Mrs. Macaulay Graham, whose
reputation in the learned world and among
the friends to the rights of human nature is
very high indeed. Her merit as an Historian
is very great, and places her as an Author
in the foremost rank of writers. I am

well

well pleased to find that she, as well as all other judicious foreigners, think themselves when in America, however distant from Mount Ve obliged to pay their respects to you. I believe that this has been her only motive for going so far South as Virginia. We are amused here with an account that does not indeed come officially to us, but however, in such a way as to merit attention — It is, a plan of the Emperor of Germany, which seems calculated to quiet his quarrel with Holland, although perhaps it may not prevent a war in Europe — He is said to have made a treaty with the Elector of Bavaria, by which he exchanges his Netherland dominions for those of Bavaria, and transfers with the exchange, all his rights and claims upon Holland: reserving Namur and Luxemburg with a district of country around, as a douceur to France for obtaining the consent of that Court to the exchange. The Bavarian dominions being much more

contiguous to the Austrian than those of the Austrian Netherlands, must greatly increase the Emperors power by a concentration of his force, heretofore so much divided, as to render the Netherlands of no great aid in case of war. This Measure, by increasing the Austrian power, must of course excite greatly the jealousy of Prussia in particular, whose king will probably risk a war rather than see his rival thus strengthened. Holland in the mean time will be relieved, by injurious claims being transfered from a strong to a weak land, and the Emperor may find himself brought to a more equal contest by combating one, instead of three powers closely combined against him. What may be the issue of this new System, time must disclose. I wish that I may be enabled by Your Excellencies to furnish you with the final sense of Congress on the momentous business of selling the western Lands, in doing which, the first and

greatest object seems to be, the discharging effectually the great weight of debt, that the war has created, and which obstructs so effectually every arrangement for future security. I have the honor to be, with sentiments of the sincerest respect and esteem Dear Sir Your most obedient and very humble Servant,

Richard Henry Lee

Hon. Genl. Washington
Boston
[illegible]

Begin

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Dear Sir,

New York May 7th 1785

This will be delivered to you by the honorable Mr? Silgreaves a very worthy delegate to Congress from N. Carolina; who has been long detained by his desire to see the Land Ordinance passed, but he is obliged at last to quit us before it is finally so. The reasons he can give you. I had some time ago written a letter for you in answer to your last favor & kept it to go by this Gentleman, whose detention has been so long as to render a new letter more fit. I have now the honor to enclose you the Ordinance above alluded to, which meets the assent of nine states every member of these Nine States, except one Dean, who keeps the Ordinance from passing by the joint causes, as he alleges, of indisposition & dislike. I incline to think, however, that it will pass in the form you now receive it, with very little alteration, if any. I think there is no doubt of the agreement having been made for change of dominions between the Elector of Bavaria & the Emperor as mentioned in my last, yet, although we have letters from our Ministers in Europe of the 9th of February, we are yet in the dark upon the question whether there will be war between the Emperor & the [illegible] whether it will be settled finally between the former & the King of Prussia. The [illegible] happens, as you will see by the enclosed, make War very certain. I had lately the honor of writing to you by Mr? Graham, this lady Mrs. Macaulay Graham the celebrated Historian of England, who go to Virginia, I believe solely to pay their respects to you. I beg leave to refer you to Mr? Silgreaves for our foreign and domestic news, which indeed is not much.

My respects if you please to your Lady, whose health I hope is perfectly restored. I am, with the truest respect, esteem, and regard, dear Sir your most obedient and very humble Servant

Richard Henry Lee.

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Lond

New York May 16th 1785.

Sir.

I thank you for your obligeing congratulation on my appointment to the Chair of Congress, and I do with particular pleasure return my congratulation on your late appointment as Minister of the United States to so eminently respectable a Court as that of his most Christian Majesty — My ill state of health, added to the business and the ceremonies of my Office, has hitherto prevented me from paying my respects to you, which certainly would have been the case if the former of these circumstances had not principally prevented me: Altho' my health is now better, yet I am very far from being well. I can judge how anxious you must be for minute information of public proceedings on the United States, and of such other matters as your letter imports a desire to be acquainted with —

But

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But unfortunately all letters are inspected, and thus the impertinent eye of curiosity may be gratified with such communications as were intended only for you, and which wicked selfishness may make a bad use of - This imposes great restraint, which will remain until Congress shall establish a system of Packets and Couriers of their own. How detestable is this dishonorable mode of obtaining intelligence - the virtue of Lord Falkland, when Secretary of State, would never suffer him to obtain information by such nefarious means - The appointment of Mr Adams to the Court of London will probably draw out quickly the sense of Great Britain upon the points in dispute with them - And the Authority given by Congress to treat with the Piratical States will, I hope, accommodate all differences with them, and give future security to our Commerce with the South of Europe - I am much obliged to you for the pamphlet - I think it is greatly to be regretted, that the avaricious, monopolizing Spirit of Commerce and Commercial men, should be

suf-

suffered to interrupt that diffusion of benefits, and com=
munication between the human species in different
parts of the world, which would probably take place if
trade were put upon more liberal principles and less
shackled than it is- The first attempt made by these States
for the trade of the East Indies was from this City- A
Ship has gone to, and returned from Canton in four=
teen months with a valuable Cargo, and met with the
most friendly treatment from the Chinese- Other Vessels
are gone and soon expected back- The great Object
with the United States now, is to dispose speedily of
the western lands for the discharge of public debt,
and a way for this is opened by treaties already made
and making with the Indians- Coinage, requisition,
and Post Office are also objects of great moment and
subjects of discussion- effectual measures are taking
by the Assemblies of Virginia and Maryland- and
by the former alone, for opening the navigation be=
tween the Potomac and James Rivers with the western
waters- Laws with suspending clauses have passed in
Virginia for establishing a single Toll on each river

and for circuit Courts - a general abhorrence for relig.
is also a subject of much discussion with us. Mr Patric
Henry is our Governor, and Col. Harrison has lost his
Election in his own County of James City.
Great and general efforts have been made to get
into the Legislature during the late Elections and
I hear that there are many changes - It remains
uncertain whether Congress will adjourn or not
this year - but as I value extremely your Corr-
spondence, Your letters for me may always be safely
enclosed to the Virginia Delegates in Congress, so
that whether Congress or the Committee of States
should be sitting, your letters will reach me safe.
be so good as to thank Mr Short for his letter to me
and inform him that I will reply by the next
Packet — I heartily wish you health and happ-
ness and I am with the truest esteem and regr

Sir, Your [illegible] Obedient and very
humble Servant

Richard Henry Lee.

P. S. I know that your goodness will excuse my having used an
Amanuensis, when you know that this Attendant has no
office but my hand & head are to make writing shameful R. H. L

Dear Sir, New York May the 30th 1785

Two days ago, and not before, your favor of March the 28th was delivered to me — that is to say, it has been more than two months travelling that far. I assure you that our Assembly was influenced more by the letter than the spirit of the Confederation. The consequence will certainly be, if our meetings are as slow as usual, that Virginia will be unrepresented for some time after the federal year commenced. No great mischief arises from this, the appearance is and so handsome and should be, besides that it partakes too much of that inattention to the great Council of the U. S. upon the wise conduct of which so much depends.

I am very happy to see by the Newspapers that the business of opening Potomac goes on as well. For certainly an object of great consequence to extend our internal navigation. Concerning James river I have heard nothing — When I was on our Assembly it appeared to me rather to be the wish, than otherwise, that Kentucky should divide for separation — And I should suppose that if, when they found themselves confident to the bounds of Self government, they peaceably applied to our Assembly, no good objection could be made to a separation — For they have been in union for a long time, if not always, more agreeable than just to the rest of the country. Washington County seems to be stimulated by a turbulent person who for self aggrandisement appears willing to dismember that part also, & join with the Revolters from N. Carolina — Their last arms to prevail the wise & firm attention of Government of the dignified — We have, after much debate indeed & great waste of time, at last by a Majority for disposing of such part of the lands N. W. of the Ohio as belongs to the U. S. & shall be purchased of the Indians. If this service agreeable to the public, it will extinguish about 10 Millions of the public debt. And the remaining lands being reserved to the Indians will nearly discharge all the domestic debt — Besides

the probable prospect that we have of considerable exports from N & S. Carolina & Georgia - This source does indeed deserve our warmest cultivation as it seems to be almost the only one that we have for discharging our oppressive debt. Dr. Franklin has leave to retire Mr Jefferson remains in France and Mr J. Adams is sent to London. If the Court of this last country is sincere, we may expect an amicable & easy settlement of existing differences between us - The Minister (Mr? Pitt) does appear willing to be liberal in Commercial regulations, but the avaricious spirit of Commerce that is so great every where, but which in England has ever been excessive, opposes his views - And so we find it is in France, for the Mercures de la Gazette contains that the advantages already granted us are most violently exclaimed against by the Trading people of the kingdom. Mr Gardoque of who calls himself Plenipotentiary Charged with affairs is arrived at Phil.a and we expect him soon here - So that we shall quickly know whether he can or will do any thing conclusive concerning the Navigation of the Mississippi - He reports a good variety of provisions at the Havannah, but yet we dont hear of the Ports of that Island being opened to us for supply - It is reported that the frigate which brought him is the finest flower — The American enterprise has been well marked by a short and successful Voyage made from hence to Canton in China — The Chinese were kind to our people and glad to see a new source of Commerce opened to them from a New People, as they call us here - The Europeans there were civil but astonished at the rapidity of our movements, especially the English - I fear that our Countrymen will overdo this business - For now there appears every where a rage for East India Voyages. So that the variety of means may defeat the attainment of the concerned end - A regulated careful commerce with that part of the World — It seems very questionable now whether Congress will adjourn or not this Year - if they do, it will not be until late in August — Inattention, sickness, and a variety of causes occasion business to go on very slowly.

Yr

Virg.a June 13th. 1785.

Dear Sir (1398)

A tedious indisposition has prevented me for a long time from paying you my respects; am still very weak, but have taken up the pen to acknowledge the rec.d of y.r obliging fav.r of the 17th past. w.ch gave me Addition.l pleasure in announcing y.r improved health, which I wish to be perfectly restored. The change of Principals in the European Contest, tho' it may give the Dutch a weaker Opponent, seems to make a War more certain; since the Prussian Monarch will probably not spend much time in Negotiation on a subject already fixed, and if he conceives that Bavaria will add too much weight to the Austrian Scale for the general tranquility, will immediately commence hostilities, unless indeed the Emperor can find some Sugar Plumb for him. Will Great Britain submit to Frances having Namur & Luxemburg, and thereby weaken the Barrier to her dominions formerly judged necessary for the peace of Europe? The Dutch may, however imprudently, submit to it to please her new Ally. The prospect of a trade opening with the East Indies, as it will lessen our dependance upon Europe for Commerce, affords agreable reflections, since I do not like the present scrambling state of Our trade w.th Europe, especially G. Britain, in which I fear there are other rubs concerning besides the Algerine Pirates. However civil this first Vessell might find the Natives & Europeans in China, yet as the latter will fancy themselves injured

by this Commerce in the same proportion as we are benefited, I expect their civility will not continue.

Some very low Sales of Tob.o from Britain, has much reduced the price here, James River to about £. 4 Potomac to 4 Guinea, but as the principal planters seem resolute not to take it, and there are a good many ships in the Country, I think it must rise, especially as the want of plants in some places, and the destruction by ground worms & grasshoppers in others, seem to predict a short crop of the coming one.

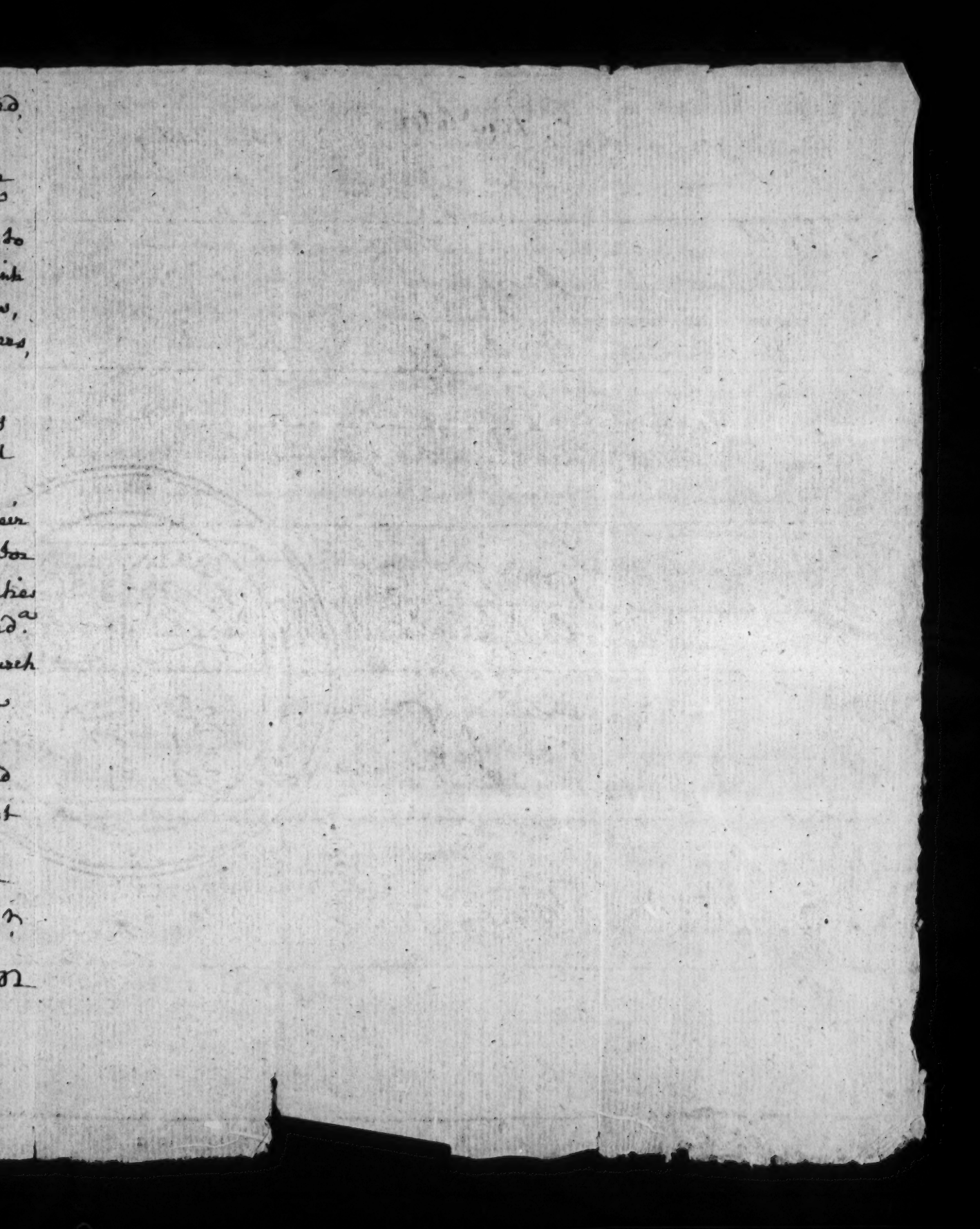
You'l have heard of a Convention of the Clergy & Laity of our Episcopal Church last Month; I was not able to attend it, but was pleased to learn that the members were truly respectable, and their proceedings wise & temperate. Their journal is not yet printed, but I am told it contains Rules for the Government of the Clergy, and the appointment of deputies to represent us, in a Federal Convention to be held in Philad.a in Sep.r next, to whom it is referr'd to revise & reform the Church Liturgy. Mr. Page of Rosewell & yr. brother Mr Greenspring are the lay deputies, Mr. Griffith & Mr. M.c Crosky the Clerical.

What is become of Bishop Seabury? & how is he received in Connecticut? One would not have expected that the first American Bishop had come to New-England!

I have the Hon.r to be with sentiments of perfect esteem and regard D.r Sir Y.r mo. ob.t hble Serv.t

Edm.d Pendleton

My farm I already rented.



E. Pendleton

~~No 318~~

Letter from (No 398)
Mr Monroe
J. Adams
Mr Shippen
informing
R. H. Lee of
his being in
nomination
for the Ct of
appeals -

~~No 318~~

Letter from
Mr Jefferson

Mr. Letter
from A. Lee

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, it hath been repreſented to the UNITED STATES in CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That ſeveral diſorderly Perſons have croſſed the *River Ohio*, and ſettled upon their unappropriated LANDS :—*And whereas*, it is their Intention, as ſoon as it ſhall be ſurveyed, to open Offices for the Sale of a conſiderable Part thereof, in ſuch Proportions, and under ſuch other Regulations as may ſuit the Convenience of all the Citizens of the ſaid States, and others, who may wiſh to become Purchaſers of the ſame ;—and as ſuch Conduct tends to defeat the Object which they have in view, is in direct Oppoſition to the Ordinances and Reſolutions of Congreſs, and highly diſreſpectful to the Federal Authority——they have therefore thought fit, and do hereby iſſue this their PROCLAMATION, ſtrictly forbiding all ſuch unwarrantable Intruſions, and enjoining all thoſe who have ſettled thereon to depart, with their Families and Effects, without Loſs of Time, as they ſhall anſwer the ſame at their Peril.

DONE by the United States in Congreſs aſſembled, the fifteenth Day of June, One Thouſand Seven Hundred and Eighty-five, and the Ninth Year of the Independence of the United States of America.

Richard Henry Lee, P.

Charles Thomſon, Sec'ry.

NEW-YORK:

PRINTED BY F. CHILDS, No. 17, DUKE-STREET.

Copy

By the United States in Congress assembled

June 15th 1785

Resolved. That the Commissioners instructed to hold a Treaty under the resolutions of the 18th of March last with the Western tribes of Indians for the purpose of obtaining from them a cession of Lands, be and they are hereby authorized and directed to avail themselves of the disposition of the Indians and the Funds committed to their charge, to make such cession as extensive & liberal as possible

2d That the Board of Treasury take order for the purchase of goods in addition to those on hand at fort M'Intosh and those ordered to be purchased by the resolutions of the 18th of March last, for the purpose of carrying the said Treaty fully into effect to an amount not exceeding 3,000 dollars.

3d That the Board of Treasury take order for the purchase of Provisions & other stores for the support of the Commissioners and their followers to an amount not exceeding 2,000 dollars

4th That the Board of Treasury take order to answer the drafts of the Commissioners of the Treaty, for the Pay of the Officers Messengers, Interpreters & artificers in a Sum not exceeding 2,000 dollars

5th That the Board of Treasury take order for contracting upon the best terms they can for the transportation of the said goods, to the places at which the treaty may be held — or such other places as the Commissioners may think proper and also for the transportation of the Troops, and their baggage that may be necessarily employed in attending the said Treaty.

6th That the Commissioners be, and they are hereby authorized and directed, to make rules and regulations for the management of the treaty, and the government of all those who attend it.

7th That they endeavour to obtain from the Inhabitants

(over)

of Nahaskies & St Vincents to obtain a Statement of their rights to Lands within the said Country, guaranteed to them by Congress, in their acceptance of the Virginia cession, with the origin & extent thereof, and report the same, that they also administer to the said Inhabitants the following oath of Allegiance

I — do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will be true and faithful to the United States of America, that I renounce all allegiance and dependence upon any foreign Prince, or Potentate whatsoever, and that I will as becomes a good Citizen, protect the said United States from all attacks, and invasions from other Powers.

8th That they prohibit the settlement of all persons not properly authorized for that purpose upon the unappropriated lands of the United States and that they cause to be circulated in the said Country the following Proclamation

(The printed proclamation of 20th there are 100 copies is inclosed)

(That the Secretary at War be and he is hereby directed to order the Troops in the service of the United States to be ready to march at such time & to such place or places, as the said Commissioners or any two of them shall direct

That the fourth of the Instructions given to the Commissrs on the 15 of October 1783. be and it is hereby repealed.)

(signed) Cha Thomson Secy

Dear Sir

(No 999)

Virg.a June 20. 1785

I have nothing to trouble you with but a small matter of busineſs for a neighbour who was a fortunate adventurer in the United States Lottery - he applied to Mr. Hopkins y.r Loan Commiſs.r, who told him his tickets must be sent to Congreſs - he was a stranger & I have none other Correspondent, or I would not have troubled you with them; thus situated I have taken the liberty to inclose them to you & request you will do what is necessary in their Negotiation. The prizes are indorsed on each from 50 to 500 Dollars, which I am told is to be paid off by some leſser sum, I think one fortieth. If the money is pd. you'd be so obliging as to receive it, letting me know the sum, wch. I will answer to the man, & perhaps you can at some convenient period, send me an order on Our Treasurer for the amount. Or if paper of any kind is to be substituted for the tickets it must be issued in the name of Chilion White the proprietor, wch. please to forward to me. For any expence the liberty I have taken, and if you have occasion for my service at any time, freely Command

Yours

Edm Randolph

(No 399)

(No 399.)

Mr Pendleton

Pro. Sale

Mount Vernon 22d. June 1785.

(295)

Dear Sir,

I stand indebted to you for your favors of the 3d. 7th. & 29th. of last Month, and feel my self exceedingly obliged to your Excellency for the communications, & inclosures therein. —

It gives me pleasure to find that an Ordinance of Congress has passed respecting the Western Territory. A little longer delay of this business, and I believe the Country would have been settled, maugre all that could have been done to prevent it. As it is I am not clear that the same respect will be paid hereto this Ordinance that would have been at an earlier period; before Men, & Measures to speculate in Lands & Monies of the Union, and to obtrude themselves thereon. —

From the general tenor of my letters, from very respectable & intelligent characters in Kentucky, as late as the end of March, it should seem most likely that the disputes between

between the Emperor & Holland will be settled without Bloodshed, and that the former will scarcely be able to effect the exchange of his dominions in the Netherlands for the Duchy of Bavaria, among other reasons because the Duke Deux Ponts Nephew & heir to the Elector, is opposed thereto. — But notwithstanding, the state of politics & temper of some of the Sovereign Powers of Europe are such as to place War at no very remote distance.

I have just parted with Mr. Macaulay Graham, who after a stay of about 10 days, left this in order to embark for England, from New York. — I am obliged to you for introducing a Lady to me whose reputation among the literati is so high, and whose principles are so much, & so justly admired by the friends of liberty and of Mankind. — You will please to send that Letter to Mr. Hector St. John, the Gentleman of the Consulate of France, who resides with Messrs. Le Roy & Bayard Merchants. — Enclosed is a Letter

the truth of these observations; and the late movements of the mercantile interest exhibits a recent proof of the conviction it is working in the popular mind.— but it is unfortunate for us, that evils which might have been averted, must be first felt; and our National character for wisdom, Justice & temperance called in question before we can remove the pestilent Machine.

The plan for improving and extending the Navigation of the River Potomack is a Magnificent one — and I do myself the honor of soliciting for the United Proceedings of the Board of Directors. — Mr. Washington's views are accomplished and every good mind [illegible] and with great esteem regard & respect

I am Dear Sir
Your Most Obed. Hble Servt
Geo. Gilpin

Gen. Wm. Brent
Alexa.

Dear Sir
I received two or three days ago. — Your son Wm. was well at our last yesterday.

Thos. Barclay Consul to Robt. Morris Superintendt

Paris July 5th 1785

I have the honor to inclose you copy of an account which I settled with his Excellency Dr. Franklin, balance due him by the United States, 7533,19.3. A great deal of care has been taken in forming conveniency this account & I believe it will be found [illegible] He directed that his house rent, shou[illegible] charged to the U.S. & have estimated his salary at £2500 stg. per Ann: from the 1st Oct. 1778 to the 1st of last month. You will see his reasons for this arrangement in the copy which I enclose of his letter to me dated 2d June. I refer to that letter on which every thing is submitted to the final decision of Congress, & if the Salary & house rent is right, I think no objection can be made to any part of the account except one not worth mentioning - I mean 60 Livs for a goblet stolen from him on account of Mr. Arthr. Lee. The demand was made on Dr. Franklin after Mr. Lees depar-

departure. Tho it seems of a small nature to Friends it ought to stand on this public account & it may be charged Lancaster 2 Mo. 1806

I also enclose eighteen of Mr. Grand's Bills as settled in the public books they might have gone many month ago But I have never been able to settle his nineteenth account satisfactorily to my satisfaction, & I wish to send the whole together. This Account No. 19. is of great consequence.

Madison Ls.

(No 405)

Dear Sir

Orange July 7. 1785.

Your favor of the 30th. of May came to hand yesterday only, having lain some time in Fred.g. and finally reached Orange via Albemarle. I agree with you perfectly in thinking it the interest of this Country to embrace the first decent opportunity of parting with Kentuckey, and to refuse firmly to part with any more of our Western settlements. It seems necessary however that this first instance of a voluntary dismemberment of a State should be conducted in such a manner as to form a salutary precedent. As it will indirectly affect the whole confederacy, Congress ought clearly to be made a party to it, either immediately, or by a proviso that the partition act shall not be in force until actual admission of the new State into the Union. No interval whatever should be suffered between the release of sovereignty over that Country, and its taking on entirely the obligations of a member of the Confederal Body. Should it be made a separate State without this precaution, it might be tempted to remain so as well with respect to the U. S. as to Virginia, by two considerations; 1. the evasion of its share of the common debt, & the allurement which an exemption from taxes would prove to citizens of States groaning under them. It is very possible that such a course might in the end be found disadvantageous, but the charms of ambition & present interest too often prevail against the remonstrances of sound policy. - May we not also with justice insist that a reasonable portion of the particular debt of Virginia be assumed by the district which is to set up for itself?

The arrival of Mr. Guardoqui will turn out I hope an auspicious step towards reconciliating explanations & overtures on the subject of the Mississippi. Besides the general motives for accelerating an adjustment of this affair, the prodigious effect it would have on the sale of the back lands renders it of

His Excelly. R. H. Lee

peculiar importance. The same consideration prefers for such arrangements with Great Britain as will give us speedy possession of the Western ports. as to the commercial arrangements which we with from her, I see no room for sanguine expectations. What could she get from us by yielding to our demands which she does not now enjoy? I can not speak with certainty as to other States, but it is apparent that the trade of this was never more completely monopolized when it was under the direction of her own laws than it is at this moment. our present situation therefore verifies the doctrine held out in Deane's intercepted letters. We have lost by the Revolution our trade with the West Indies, the only one which yielded us a favorable balance, without having gained any new channels to compensate it. What makes the British monopoly too the more mortifying is the abuse they make of it. Not only the private planters who have resumed the practice of shipping their own Tob.o but many of our Merchants particularly the natives of the Country who have no connections in Great Britain have received accounts of sales which carry the most visible & shameful frauds in every article. In every point of view indeed the trade of this Country is in a deplorable condition. A comparison of current prices here with those in the Northern States, either at this time or at any time since the peace, will shew that the loss direct on our produce & indirect on our imports, is not less than 50 p.ct. Till very lately the price of our staple has been down at 32/ & 33/ on James River and 28/. on Rappahannock. During the same period the former was selling in Philad.a and probably in other Northern ports at 44/. of our currency & and the latter in proportion, though it is clear that Tob.o in the Northern ports is intrinsically worth less than in ours; being burdened with the expence of freight from the latter to the former, & remaining at the same distance from its ultimate market. The prices of merchandize here is at least as much above as Tob.o is below the Northern standard.

We have had from the beginning of June to the present time, very hot and very wet weather. The effect of it on upland Corn has been favorable, but much the reverse on the flats. It has given full opportunity to the planters to pitch their crops of Tobo. but tho' many of them have repeated this operation several times, the noxious insects still threaten to abridge the prospect. Should their depredations subside, the extraordinary efforts of the Country for a crop must produce a great one. Our wheat in this part of the Country is very indifferent. How it may be in others I cannot say, but believe the complaints are pretty general

With the highest esteem & regard I remain Dear Sir
Your obedt. & very Hble Servt.
J. Madison Jr

Dear Sir, Montpr. Augt. 11. 1805

Your favor of July the 17th was long coming to hand as I find also my letter of the 20th May was in getting to you. Things joined to the uncertainty of Letters ever answering ones is a very discouraging circumstance to full free correspondence. I have the honor of according most perfectly and entirely with your ideas for regulating our several from Kentucky. I see no reason why the district should not pay its proportion of the debt created by the war, and that the Legislature of the Union should be competent to lay such a tax. The Contract should be Interstate; the fundamental article in the Act of Confederation as well as that they should be a compact part of the Federal Union. Mr. Jay is commissioned to treat with Mr. Garduqui, but as yet nothing has been done. The state of Mississippi parties, our State, Congress, & Kentucky will probably grant large commercial benefits. But if we remain firm, I incline to think that the Navig. will be yet consented to. As yet we only know officially that Mr. J. Adams has arrived in London, received his audience of his Credentials. The next packet will probably inform us of his feelings thereon. I think with you that there is not great room for hope to try them upon. I think with you that there is not great room for hope of Commercial advantages from a Nation whose appetite for commerce has ever been voracious, and its wishes always for Monopoly. And the more especially as we have no

(1405) I believe Jas Madison Jr July 7th 1785 (Vol 2744)

compensation to make That we may disarm them to be
reasonable, by a very careful and considerate retrenching of their
Trade, in all cases where we shall not injure ourselves more than
them by the retrenchment — But it seems to me clear beyond
doubt, that the giving Congress a power to legislate over the Trade
of the Union would be dangerous in the extreme to the Southern
or Staple States whose want of Ships & Seamen would expose
them to foreign Vassalage & their produce to a most pernicious and
destructive Monopoly — With such a power the States in the Union
would be stimulated by extreme interest to shut close the door
of Monopoly. that by the exclusion of all rivals whether for purchasing
our produce or freighting it, both these might be at the Mercy
of our East & North The Spirit of commerce throughout the world is a Spirit of Avarice and could not fail to
act as these States — What a little difficulty there would be in
drawing over one of the 5 to join the 8 interested States over the
very assemblage That which has marked the iniquity of Congress
In truth it demands most careful circumspection that the remedy
prove not worse than the disease, bad as the last may be — I could say much on this
subject, but it is not necessary for I am sure that your good sense & reflecting
calmly on the subject will sufficiently discern the danger of such an
experiment — Nor do I believe it necessary, being perfectly satisfied
that a well digested system of restraints being positively laid before the
States by Congress would unite the Voices of the different Assem-
blies — I think so, because it will be found evidently the interest of
all to do so — It is true that the price of our Staple has been for some
time greater at Phil.a & here than in Virg.a — But it is as true that
the European price did not warrant the price at these two places as
the great loss & bankruptcies of the Adventurers plainly prove —
Indeed this excess of price at P. & N.y was occasioned by sinking
Speculators, who to support a little longer, would go any lengths to
keep up appearances by, some how or other making remittance to their Creditors abroad —
But this business is now chiefly over & here at present there is neither
money nor inclination to purchase Tob.o — The crowd of Bank-
ruptcies at P. has I believe nearly produced the same effect —

Dear Sir

Richd. July 8th 1785

I Doubt not you are surprized at my silence on the business of our Appointment - let me asure you Sir it proceeded from the indetermination of our Rulers as you will observe by the Resolves. instrs. now by our order from Mr. Campbell from N. York I set out this afternoon for Carlisle from whence I shall send off the messengers for the Indians who are soon as the mouth of the Big Miamis on the Ohio unless I have other directions from Congress very Arrangement is made for Purchasing goods, Stores &c - We have divided the business of the messengers, Mr. Clark has undertaken to have those Indians from Wea or Wiachtenon on the Wabash & those to the head of Miami collected to the Ouiano including & undertake to the Posts mentioned on the Wabash & all east of Lake Michigan, we propose to meet them the Hond. Sec. of Dft. & will therefore be requisite for

Arthur Lee Esqr.

as to be at F. Pitt in time. I shall go on to the Falls of Ohio to send out the messengers of his destiny & to despatch the Proclamations for removing the settlers on the North of Ohio - the messengers of my district shall send from Carlisle. Should you find inclination to make that place your route to the west, it will give me pleasure. M.r Wilkins I hold of important thoughts concerning the disposition you propose & how much I hope you are so well recovered as to make you able to take the journey - please direct to Carlisle for me & I shall be punctual in advising you from thence - I have recov.d the sight of my eye tolerably thro' the finest regimen ever I left the Orchard with. I have the hon.r to subscribe myself with great regard & respect Sir your most Hble Servt

H Butler

M.r Montgomery wishes much the success again as Store keeper which I believe will depend on yourself as I will consent to none till I hear from you - the goods are taken purchas.d by the Commissary & delivered to M.r Pitt which will be conveyed

FREE

Arthur Lee Quinn
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
at
Dumfries & Alexandria
Virginia

Genl 15
Aug. 25
Answ. Aug. 25

Copy

By the United States in Congress assembled

July 9th 1785

Resolved That the Commissioners for negotiating treaties with the western Indians under the Resolutions of the 18th of March last and the 15th of June inst. be and they are hereby directed to hold the said treaty on the western banks of the Ohio river, at the Rapids, or at the mouth of the Big-Miami.

That the Secretary at war direct one company of Infantry from the Troops in the service of the United States, to attend the said Commissioners to, at, and from the place where the treaty aforesaid shall be held, and to be subject to the orders of the said Commissioners — and that so much of the act of the 15th inst. as directs the Secretary at war to order the Troops in the service of the United States to be in readiness to attend the said Commissioners; and so much of the said act as requires the said Commissioners to obtain from the Inhabitants of Kaskaskies & St. Vincents & others, a Statement of their rights to lands, and to administer an oath of allegiance to the said Inhabitants, be, and they are hereby repealed.

Resolved That it be and is hereby recommended to the Commonwealth of Virginia, on the request of the said Commissioners to furnish such number of the Militia of that State, not exceeding 150 Men, from the Counties within the State most convenient to the place where the said treaty is to be held, as will give full protection to all persons attending the same. Provided the company of Infantry aforesaid shall be found to be insufficient for that purpose.

(Signed) Cha Thomson Secy

Grosvenor Square Westminster July 16: 1783:

Dear Sir

I have received the Letter you did me the Honour to write me on the 28 May. and am fully of your Opinion of the Importance of Concord between our Country and this and of the Causes which obstruct it. The Malignity of disappointed Men is astonishing; but the Change of Language, if not of Sentiment, of Some who have not been disappointed is more so. in Truth Sir, Some, who foresaw the Success of the American Cause, attach'd themselves to it, as a Scaffold, on which to mount into Power, but having arrived at the Summit, they neglect the Ladder, and have adopted the very Passions and Principles of those whom We, not they, have driven off the Stage. I dont apply this Censure to all: on the contrary, the Majority of the Present Ministry, I believe, think pretty justly and would do right if they could, but Government, altho' at present possessed of decided Majorities in both Houses of Parliament, is very weak. There is great Impatience and discontent in the Nation, and great Parties are watching the present Ministry. if there Should be any Change it is problematical, whether the Coalition, would come in, or the Marquis of Lansdown the Marquis of Buckingham &c

the Latter Party possess Sentiments of the Relations of Commerce between America and great Britain the most just of the two. But it is my Duty to be explicit. Conviction in Administration is not enough. They cannot follow their own Lights, and the Nation must be made to feel. This is a Work of Time, and it is dangerous Work, because it may in such inflammable Circumstances provoke War. I hope that Persons and Property in America will be held Sacred. That nothing will be done by the People but in the legal Way of Petition and peaceable Association, but I hope they will never have done petitioning and appealing untill the States unite in giving Congress full Power to make Treaties of Commerce, and untill they all Unite in insisting on a perfect Equality in Commerce and Navigation with great Britain, either by a perfect Freedom of Trade on both Sides, or equal and reciprocal Prohibitions or Discouragements.

Your Letter to Mr Steptoe I have delivered to a Gentleman, Mr Stordale, much acquainted with Persons connected in India, who will be so good as to forward it, and if I can be of any Service to Mr Steptoes Views I will. But America and India are two Ideas in the Mind of a Britain, which produce an Explosion.

if an American Should be known to Solicit an Employment in India for an American, the East Indies would instantly be Seen, in Imagination, independent of Britain and in Alliance with the United States and France.

This Nation, Sir, Sees that their Sciences, Arts, Trades, Commerce Navigation and Wealth and Power are all hurrying over to America, and the Prospect is so humiliating to their Pride, so mortifying to their Vanity, that they Loose their Patience, and their final Declamation is, "I had rather "America had been annihilated, than that She Should "have carried her Point." nor is this Sentiment peculiar to Englishmen. a great Spanish Minister has very Lately Said at Madrid, that "he wished all America, north "and South under Water."— European Ministers expect a great deal of trouble from America, and they all know that She will always prevail. We know too that We Shall have a great deal of Trouble from Europe; but I hope We are neither So impious, So inhuman or So Silly as to wish her annihilated or under Water. The Jealousies of old Physicians, and Lawyers of young

and rising Genius's in their Professions often stimulate them to acts of Ingenuity and Injustice, which, however, instead of crushing the Youth, only sharpen his Ingenuity and increase his Caution and Industry. Nations are like Individuals. and Europe must allow America fair Play. That is all she wants. and She will always have one half of Europe to see that She has fair Play from the other half. The European Powers can never agree. There are now on Foot, three Attempts, which will all prove abortive. Mr Crawford has been a Year at Paris to negotiate a Treaty of Commerce with France, and Mr Woodford, lately British Minister in Denmark, is now appointed to treat here with Del Campo the Spanish Minister, and a Mr Bordieu told me, Yesterday, that he is just appointed to negotiate some Convention between the French and English East India Companies. But these Attempts, if ever Sincere, will produce nothing.

Sept 23 and 1785.

With great and Sincere Esteem I have the Honor to be Sir your obliged Friend and very humble Servant

John Adams

His Excellency
R. H. Lee Esqr

Nov. 1785 105 (641)

Sir, Presidents House 19th July 1785

The Letter from his most Christian Majesty mentioned in yours of the 18th instant is to be received in the same manner as the Late Letter from his Majesty was - And I have the Honor now to inform you that I shall be ready to receive Mr. De Marbois here tomorrow forenoon at half an hour after ten Oclock.

I am, with much esteem and regard Sir your most obedient and very humble Servant

Richard Henry Lee

The Honorable

James Duane Esq

Mayor of the City of N York

July 20th 1785

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose an Act of Congress, that has been prompted by the daily interruption given to their discussions by the almost unceasing noise of passing Carriages. Your long acquaintance with public business, and your wish to see it discharged with propriety and dispatch, will secure your approbation of the proposed remedy if it shall be found to consist with the police of the City

I have the honour to be with sentiments of esteem and regard

Sir, Your most Obedient & very humble Servant

Richard Henry Lee

Dear Sir, New York July the 23d 1785.

I lately had the honor of forwarding a packet for you by Post that came indirect to me from France, by the Author of a Dramatic piece on the former situation of Capt. Asgil. The subject is not a bad one, but the Author of this work seems not to have made the most of it.

On the 1st of May Mr. Dumas writes me, that the parties still continue to negotiate the peace in a very threatening manner. In truth, the whole affair is involved in much mystery, and perhaps the truth is only known in the interior cabinets of the greatest powers. The Marquis de la Fayette, in a late letter seems to think that the collected combustibles may be put in flame by various accidents. The Emperor he says is restless, the Empress of Russia ambitious, the King of Prussia old, with all a combining causes renders the peace of Europe precarious. The Marquis proposes to visit this summer the Manœuvering Troops of Austria & Prussia in the North of Europe. We have lately received a letter from his most Chr. Majesty, in answer to one from Congress to him recommending the Marquis, in which his Majesty is pleased to express himself in such a manner of the Marquis as promises well for the future promotion of that Nobleman.

Mr. Adams writes that he has been received in due form at the Court of London, has had his audience, and delivered his Credentials to that Sovereign. No treaty when he wrote had been commenced, but we expect soon to hear of the commencement & progress of that business. Mr. Jay is commissioned by Congress to open negotiations with Mr. Gardoque the Spanish Plenipo here, concerning the navigation of Mississippi, Boundary, Commerce &c. The Spanish Minister appears to be well disposed towards us. It gives me singular pleasure to hear that the plan for opening the navigation of Potomac goes

goes on successfully, as it promises such capital benefits to our country. It is sometime since I wrote to Colo. Fitzgerald desiring that he would put me down for a share.

Is it possible that a plan can be formed for issuing a large sum of paper money by the next Assembly? I do verily believe that the greatest foes we have in the world could not devise a more effectual plan for ruining Virginia. I should suppose that every friend to his country, every honest and sober man would join heartily to reprobate so nefarious a plan of speculation.

Be pleased Sir to present my best respects to your Lady and be assured that I am, with sentiments of the greatest respect, esteem, & regard, dear Sir your most affectionate and obedient Servant

Richard Henry Lee.

P. S.

also I began this letter on the 20th. my ill state of health and much business have prevented me from finishing it until this day, the 31st. of July. I thank God that my health is now much better than it has been R. H. L.

(No 401) Westminster July 29th 1785—

Sir.

I have done myself the honour of writing to your Excellency by every opportunity since my arrival in this land of Beef & Pudding — I have also forwarded the news papers regularly which I hope have met with a safe conveyance — I was disappointed in forwarding my last of the 5th inst. and have committed two packets of letters to the care of Mrs Bunyan, who may be heared of on her arrival in America at Mrs Elsworths in Maiden lane The papers up to this date also accompany this, they may afford some amusement en passant, and contain some striking rough lines of national character — Their Politicians are still running the career of uncertainty, and stand a tip-toe — waiting the decision of the Irish Parliament — on the Irish Propositions, which after having passed the ordeal of a British Senate, present themselves to the World so singed and scorch'd as in the opinion of many to be deprived of all relish for an Irish Palate — However the influence of the Ministry and the ability of the treasury are supposed sufficient to prop them thro' the Irish parliament but even then it is imagined the public mind will revolt at them If so. we may expect some attention to our Commercial Propositions, which were finished last night and I shall have the honour of presenting them this day to the Marquis of Carmarthen — It is Mr. Adams's intention to have forwarded a regular Statement of them thro' Mr. Jay to Congress, as soon as I shall be able, with his direction to prepare them —— But should the Hibernians be so inattentive to their rights as to close with the propositions — and not advert to the situation it will necessarily throw them into relative to America, and the shackels which will be placed on their Commerce in consequence of it — they will be smiled upon and courted by this Kingdom — but the finger of derision will point

to

to the Circumstance, and hand it down to posterity as a National Bull which will hereafter be roaring in their Childrens Ears for Lack of pasture — think they will find few Countries except America, capable of affording them — but the Nursery Mind (in a political point of View) in this hemisphere is so debased by the Love of despotism and the Vile insinuating smile of bribery and corruption — that nothing great or noble can be expected from it, they have reached that Stage where, agreable to Montesquieu, the actions of men are judged, not as Virtuous, but as shining; not as just, but as great; not as reasonable, but as extraordinary. — However they should have fortitude and ability enough to form a Congress — we may then expect a freedom of speech, and the nation will have an opportunity of convincing the world — that when occasion requires, they can open their Vowels, and make their neighbours perfectly understand them — in their present situation they are tongue tyed & their lungs are so compressed by the weight of the aristocratical Party that they can scarcely breath — and unless they embrace the present glorious opportunity of asserting their rights their Liberties are gone for ever and that star of freedom which dignifies human nature, will twinkle on their Western Horizon & be tormenting them with reflection, without benefitting them by its light. — However Sir, in either case permit me to assert, it behooves us to collect ourselves for a pointed exertion (perhaps it may be only necessary) in a Commercial line — this ability your Excellency is convinced can only arise from a strict union of the members of our Confederation, and an immediate deposit in the hands of Congress ample powers for general Arrangement — The supposed want of this ability, is the source of every disagreable Circumstance relative to our Country — and as their leading men here will not give themselves the trouble of enquiring, whether that power really exists or not — I think the first opportunity which may present itself consistent

consistent with National dignity should be embraced to convince them of their error, and of the necessity of their being a little more attentive to national etiquette, in their connections with us —— Your Excellency will perhaps observe that I am dashing on with the forwardness of youth and ought in my turn to be checked — this the very thing that I wish and expect from your friendship — whenever it appears to you necessary — say it on & spare not, Sir, for by the checks and advice of my friends I flatter myself I may possibly be kept right — upon this principle (as I only mean to suggest my own Ideas as they arise, without promising to myself anything more than making up a Letter and convincing you how much I shou[illegible] it myself complimented when you requested my Correspondence) I shall proceed by way of interrogation — Has not America a right (in her intercourse with nations) to expect every attention to established rules, which would be paid to the most ancient? yes undoubtedly —— Do not her laws operate equally & may not the most perfect Stranger when he appeals to their decision expect the strict Justice equal with the established Inhabitant? yes I hope so — Where then can be the necessity of an Individual being detached from any Country to reside there for the ostensible purpose of seeing justice done to his Country-men? — I do not know — Is it not rather insolent thus to reflect upon the justice of a Country without cause? — I think so —— and supposing such detachment to be made by Great Britain to America, what would be the duty of the person on his arrival, or on what principles would he act —— ask him the question when he arrives for he will be with you & he'll raise the Curl which guards his left Ear — throw his body & head in an inquisitive posture & say — Eh? —— and when repeated a little louder

with

W. S. Smith (1 to 412)

(No 401) 2 Letters

will assert with a projected Lip & a wise shake of the head, that his majesty's ministers know very well what they are about — but here I must beg his excuse, for I doubt it — but to be short — this Government have appointed, Mr. John Temple to reside in the United States of America as their Consul-general — I believe this is novel — Most Countries previous to their making such appointments obtain permission from others for those characters to reside there and delineate their duty by commercial treaties or subsequent Conventions — otherwise they have nothing to act upon, and I should suppose (in any other case but the present) that they would have too much modesty to interfere with the regular operation of established laws — but you must not promise yourself any thing from their modesty — but be prepared for I think he will shew himself in pontificalibus soon — Can Congress receive him? excuse me Sir, I cannot answer that question — I know Congress have powers to make treaties and consequently to receive all publick Characters which such treaties give existance to — but how far they may be competent to receive publick Characters not noted by treaty or appearing under the sanction of the Laws of Nations, they themselves are fully competent to decide — but perhaps this Country does not wish he should be received, but would rather he should be refused admittance — and sent back with harshness and severity — for if their designs are hostile a Circumstance of this kind pushed off with a ministerial Pen — would insure the ministry a National Support in any bloody measure their dispondency might urge them to pursue — therefore I should suppose if on his arrival it should be found that he has left his Credentials behind him, or that no national arrangements have been made to justify the existance of such Credentials — that good humour & politeness accompanying a proper statement of his situation & the accident deviation from established national principles — addressed to his own Judgement — would convince him of the disagreeableness of his situation, the impropriety of the appointment at the present moment and our disposition to treat him with every respect as a private Gent. but that it would be paying little attention to national dignity to admit him in his publick Character raised without a proper foundation — you must be very happy the sheet is not longer — I have only room left to sign my name — there is one thing I now suspect you will be convinced of — viz. that your time has been badly spent in attending to the cavortings (scribendi) of your Obligd and Obedt. W. S. Smith

(№ 402)

Boston August 7th 1785

My dear Sir

The Governor of this Commonwealth, & in his publick person, not only the honor of the Commonwealth but as I conceive of the United States of which this is one capital branch, has been grosly insulted by Capt Stanhope of the british ship of war the Mercury. This ship came from Nova Scotia for the purpose of obtaining provisions; a circumstance which was very irritating to the people in general considering that the british have prohibited these very provisions, when carried to them in our own vessels. The ship anchored in Nantasket harbour, & the Captain wrote a decent letter to the Governor, acquainting him of his arrival & that he should do himself the honor to wait on him when he came up to town, to which the Governor returned a polite answer. Accordingly the Captain waited on the Governor, & then & at other times was treated by him with the civility & respect due to a foreigner in Capt Stanhope's station, without any national distinction. A fracas happened in the Mall between Stanhope & a young sailor, which was the aggressor is uncertain, but probably enough the sailor, who, it is said in the late war had been taken a prisoner on board the same ship, & by Stanhope's order, repeatedly brot to the Gun & flogged, for refusing to work, & thus become a sistant to the enemies of his Country — this altercation collected the people together, & the Captain, either in reality, or pretending to be apprehensive of Absassination (an expression he chose to make use of in his letter to the Governor) hastened off & the people followed him, rather as I am told by a Gentleman who happened to see them, apparently from a curiosity to know what kind of event might take place, than with any intention of being active in making one, & having proceeded as far as a Gentleman's house in Kings Street near the State House, the Captain got

got into safe quarters, & the people dispersed— The next day the Captain was abroad in the Town as usual without any injury or affront of=fered him, or appearing to conceive himself in any danger—

I have omitted to acquaint your Excellency that when the Ship approached the Castle in coming up, her ensign which was a handsome one, was struck, & an old tattered one was hoisted & remained till she had passed, when it was struck & the other again hoisted— This is construed by Commissioners as a studied affront— I need not pass a judgment on the matter

The Governor will forward to our Delegates in Congress an epistolary correspondence which passed between him & Captain Stanhope upon the occasion of his assassination. I flatter my=self upon the perusal, your Excellency will justify my opinion in the beginning of this letter— Whatever rank, or public character Capt Stanhope may hold in his own imagination, or how=ever many soever the exemptions & special privileges he may fancy himself entitled to, the Governor considered him entitled only to the General protection of the Law, while he continued within the Jurisdiction of the Commonwealth, or whatever ideas the Captain may have of propriety of conduct in a Governor of one of the United States, our Governor did not conceive of himself as a Grand Juryman to enquire into Misdemeanors or a Justice of the peace to decide upon little Controversies which happen among men who know not how to keep upon terms with each other; nor did he see any obstacle in Capt

Stanhopes

Stanhope's way for the obtaining legal satisfaction for any injury he might possibly have received, that required the extraordinary interposition of Government.

I am very sensible that the British Nation does not discover that Candour towards the United States which ought to be observed by Nations in amity with each other. It may therefore be expected that Subjects of such a Nation, especially those in inferiour Commands will maintain a certain hauteur which indeed seems to me to be Characteristick of the Nation itself, when they are transiently resident in any of these States; and even our Governments may not escape such affronts as may lead to very serious consequences.

It requires however a quick National sense as well as great moderation while we hold an intercourse with such a County, The surest way in my opinion to avoid a national quarrel with Great Britain is to preserve a National dignity; for it may be as truely said

(№402) Sam.l Adams (Mass) 4 letters (Nov.b)

said of a Nation as of an individual, when a man is one known to bear a kick no Bully will fail to do himself the pleasure of kicking him. I hope this matter will have its due attention, perhaps your Excellency may think it proper that the proceedings as stated by the Governor should be transmitted to Mr. Adams to be by him represented to the Court of London.

I think the Governor judges wisely in considering it in a National view. If Congress should judge otherwise which I cannot persuade myself to believe, it is presumed that each State will resent such indignities for the future in its own way. But this might be probably attended with effects injurious to the Honour or safety of the United States. An indignity offered to one of the Confederated States cannot but extend to the whole.

It therefore appears to me perfectly consistent with just ideas of the design of our Union that in such cases the United Body, forever partaking in the sense of injury done to an individual State, and the Honour of the whole being affected the wisdom of the whole should be employed in redressing it.

As I have not leisure to write to Mr. Gerry or either of the Delegates of this Commonwealth on this subject I desire you, Sir, to communicate to them the contents of this Letter.

With the warmest Sentiments of Friendship and Esteem,

I am Your Excellency's
Obedient and very Humb.e Serv.t
Sam.l Adams

His Excellency
The President of Congress

Nov.r 6.

Edmundsbury Aug.st 8.th 1785.

Dear Sir (N.o 460)

I am just returned from a Ramble of some weeks in pursuit of health, I think not without some success, and found the Country in some parts seasonable and promising Crops, in others very dry and apprehensive of a famine from that cause & the devestation of the chinch bugs, which since Harvest have infested the Indian corn; I think upon the whole Our prospect of Crops is very low, and yet the prices of Our Staples is reduced by commercial combinations & improvident planters.

About a fortnight past 17 of the Criminals confined in our Public Goal escaped at Noonday, having confined the Goaler when he went in with food for a sick man - Instead of skulking, they appeared desirous of marching off in Tryumph in despite of the Citizens, who Assembled & soon retook 10; of the remaining 7, I hear that 5 are since retaken in Amherst, so that only two are at large. a few remained in prison, either because they did not like the speculation, or as they say, were determined to reform & would patiently work out their term.

Our different Accounts from the Westward seem to point out the Indians as generally hostile & little disposed to keep the peace so lately concluded w.th Congress - I think the back Inhabitants are rather inclined to War than peace with them.

We have just received an Account from a Gent.n travelling from Baltimore that the Bostonians having required all British Vessels to leave their Ports, and three of them persisting in staying, the people of the Town had fired upon & sunk them; I hope it is not true, as the Act they have lately passed to Oppose the British regulations of their West-India trade, seems wise & temperate - the sanction of that law was no doubt a forfeiture of Vessel & Cargo recoverable in a Court of Admiralty and if the law was enforced, which I suppose was hardly the case as they would allow time to give notice of it, that mode of proceeding would have been more consistent with regular Government, and the law and practice of Nations, than an hostile destruction of property belonging to persons unheard, which must tend to weaken the confidence of Foreigners in finding protection in Our harbours, & discourage their trade.

(No 403) E. Pendleton 24 Letters (~~No 320~~.)

I confess it was my wish, as soon as the British Court had made those regulations, that a general Law should have Passed in all the States to prohibit all trade with the British Islands, but in American Bottoms; And in like manner to have Assimilated all our Commercial regulations to the degree of freedom or restraint adopted by all foreign Courts in respect to us; which would have evinced that however desirous we were of a free & Open trade with all the world upon terms of Equality, we meant not to be the dupes of an unequal, disadvantageous intercourse with any.

If the story about the distruction of the British ships be true, yet I hope some method of Adjusting the affair may be negotiated between Congress and that Court, without a rupture, which I am sure would at this time ill suit either the circumstances or inclination of Virginia, at least.

I find the Spanish Minister hath at length had his introduction, & hope he may be better disposed & instructed in regard to the Mississippi Navigation, than his Masters appeared to be sometime past. Strange infatuation, to obstruct that Navigation, when a Spirit for Commerce would point out New. Orleans as a situation for Opulant Merchants, perhaps preferable to any in the world, especially if Mr. Rumseys new constructed boats to pass against Currents should succeed. I have the Honr. to be with sentiments of esteem & regard

D.r Sir

Yr. Affe. & Obt. Servt.

Edm.d Pendleton

Charlestown the 11th of August 1785

Dear Sir

I had yesterday the honour of seeing you mentioned as being appointed to the board of treasury, and I instantaneously congratulated the United States upon it. You are the first who has not been heavenly initiated into the mysteries of speculation anticipations and finances. You have abilities and industry equal to any thing and reason. I shall admit every plea to remove you. The details of the counting house your clerks can do while you are finding out the honest statement of the National debt with the best means of extinguishing it as well as providing for future contingencies

Yesterday saw your friend Mr. P. Jay and his family for the last time in America. He

desired me to tell you he did not write to you because he supposed you were via the Mississippi. I told him I could give a better reason if I chose to disclose which was that you had not answered one of the three letters I had written to you.—

Mr. John Rutledge has resigned his appointment as minister to the United Netherlands and I believe Mr. Ayres would wish it, the indisposition of his family alarms him and gives him a relish again for Europe. I mention this to you already you are the friend of any worthy man and will know what use to make of it.

If you should have occasion to write to me, direct for me at the post-office. I leave orders there where to forward my letters.

I am with great and sincere esteem

Dear Sir

Your most obedient & hble

Arthur Lee Esquire

Benjamin Hawkins

Benj.n Hawkins
Aug. 11th '85
(No. 92.)

Sir. New York August 16. 1705

If during the time of my absence, any business occurs that requires my signature, be pleased to transmit such to me at Doct. Shippens in Philadelphia from whence you will receive a speedy return. I have the honor to be, with much esteem & regard, Sir your most obedient and very humble Servant

Richard Henry Lee.

Sir. Philadelphia August 21st 1785

The letter that you favored me with on the 10th instant reached me yesterday after the post had left the City, so that the papers enclosed for my signature must be detained until next post day, unless Doctr Gardener should afford me an opportunity of more quickly conveying them — With the returned papers you will receive also enclosed a Letter from the Honorable Jn3 Rutledge, and one from Lt Colo Harmer, both which I received yesterday. I pray you Sir to accept my thanks for your obliging wishes for the recovery of my health, which is certainly better than when I left New York.

I am, with much esteem, Sir your most obedient and very humble Servant

Richard Henry Lee.

Mount Vernon 22. Augt. 1785

(30 Lre)

Dear Sir,

In my absence with the Directors of the Potomack Navigation, to examine the River and fix a plan of operations, your favor bearing date the 23d. and ended the 31st. of July, came to this place. — I am sorry to hear of your late indisposition, but congratulate you on your recovery; hopeing that the reestablishment of your health will be of long continuance. —

The packet which you were so obligingly as to send me, came safely, and I thank you for your care of it. — but for want of knowledge of the language I can form no opinion of any one of the Dramatic performance of Mons.r Beaumarchais un la Barbier.

The circumstance of my information from Mons. Grasse is, that the dispute between the Emperor & Holland was accommodated without bloodshed. but after the explicit declarations which have been made on both sides, I do not see how either (especially the first) can recede from his claims. — To save appearances, & to let the contending parties down handsomely, say some of my letters, is now the greatest difficulty. — but all agree that a spark may set the whole in flames. — Advices

Bavaria

Bavaria it is objected with yet do Re-

It is to be hoped that our Min-
ter at the Court of London will bring
that Government to an explanation
respecting the Western Posts, which it
still retains on the American side of
the line, contrary to the spirit, if not to
the letter of the Treaty. — My opinion
from the first, and so I declared it, was
that these Posts would be detained from
us as long as they could be held under
any pretence whatsoever. — I have
not changed it, though I wish for cause
to do so, as it may ultimately become
a serious matter. — However unpa-
lon the opinion may be, I cannot
divest myself of it, that the Navigation
of the Mississippi, at this time, ought
to be the object with us. — or the acces-
sory, till we have a little time allowed to
open & make easy the ways between the
Atlantic States & the Western territory.
The obstructions had better remain. —

There is nothing which binds
one country, or one state to another by
interest. — without this cement, the
Western inhabitants (which more than
probably will be composed in a great de-
gree of foreigners) can have no predi-
lection for us; and a commercial con-
nection is the only tie we can have upon
them. — It is clear to me that the
Trade of the Lakes, and of the River St.
as low as the Great Kanhawa (if not
to the Falls) may be brought to the
Ports on the Atlantic easier, and

cheaper

cheaper, taking the whole voyage together, than it can be carried to New Orleans. — but once open the door to the latter before the obstructions are removed from the former, — let commercial connections (which must lead to others) be formed — and habits of that trade be established, and it will be found no easy matter to divert it. — and vice versa. — When the settlements are deeper & more extended to the Westward, the navigation of the Great Missisipi will be an object of importance, and no state will be able then (reserving our claim) to speak a more efficacious language than policy, I think, should dictate at present.

I have, and I hope ever shall bear, as many serious heaties of paper empirical as this state — yet such a thing may be in agitation — Ignorance & design are productive of much mischief. — The former, as the cat of the latter, and are often set to work as suddenly as unexpectedly. — These with us, I have conversed on this subject, in this part of the State reprobate the idea exceedingly.

We have lately had the pleasure of Mrs. Lees, and Mrs. Hannahs company at this place. — They were here a few days ago. — Mrs. Washington prays you to accept her compliments, and with sentiments of perfect respect, esteem & regard,

I am — Dear Sir

Your most Obed. and affect. H. Servt.

G. Washington

P.S. Your name, Sir, with a number of the Subscribers for a share in the Potomack Company

G. W.

G. Washington

22 Aug. 1785

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Imperfect

The Hague Sept[illegible] 1785

Sir

A few Days before leaving Paris I had the Honor to receive your Letter. Since that I have passed through London on my Way to this Place. The Cause of my coming has been communicated to you some Time ago & I have nothing to say on that Subject. Learning that a Vessel was about to sail from Amsterdam for N. York in a few Days I profit of that Occasion to send you a little of the reigning Politics of this Quarter of the Globe. three Objects at present occupy the Minds of all here I say all because every one is deeply interested & takes an active Part in one or other of the three. The first is the Affair of the Scheld, which is now negociating & in a very fair Train at Paris. I have here the most unquestionable Information that this Matter will be accomodated in a very few Days & that an intimate Treaty with France will immediately follow: perhaps the last Hand is this Moment putting to it. The Conditions of this Accomodation with the Emperor cannot be known; yet there is no Doubt I believe that the Scheld will not be opened in its greatest Latitude & in the Manner the Emperor wished it. It was to be wished for

America I think that he had succeeded. We should have been able then to have quoted this Example when we come to claim, as we certainly shall do, the free Use of the Mississippi. The best Claim however in all these Cases is that of Force; & this we shall probably have on our Side.

The second Object consists of the internal Commotions of these Provinces occasioned by the two Parties, of Patriots & Orange Men. The Designs of the former is to clip what they think the unconstitutional Endearances of the Princes Power — of the Latter to oppose them in every Instance. The former are composed of the middle Rank of Citizens — the Latter of the higher & lower Classes. The Patriots are at present the unquestionably predominant Party — Considering however of a great Variety of Powers & Characters, opposed in Principle & Interest their Operations are slow — yet they form at present a powerful Column that must be reckoned with if they can keep it can be kept firm & unbroken — They have lately succeeded in establishing the High Council of War — & Commissioners are are to enquire into the illegal Growth of Prerogative & secrete premises & Grievances Broke to overgrown Power. Yet History has furnished us with so many Instances of the Difficulty of overturning Power from Hands which have once possessed it that we might be excused to doubt the Success of the patriotic Party, as they are termed, if every Day did not give some Proofs of their decided Determination & perseverance. At the Head of them is Mr Edm Burke the Brother of the Minister in America — he is aided by the Pensionary of Dort a Gentleman of shining Talents & though young, of the most promising Expectations. The

most penetrating of this Party consider themselves as indebted to the American War for saving their Lives & rescuing them from a Lethargy into which they had fallen. A Spirit of Opposition has pervaded this whole Rank of Citizens - Volunteer Corps are formed & disciplining - You observe them Gallicizes even going through the Exercise in playing about the Heels - & every thing among them makes us recollect the year of 75 in America. This Party views America with a wonderful Partiality & so much attached are they to our Opposition that they seem jealous of permitting us whatever they can - & drawing Parallels between the similar circumstances in the two Countries — Not long ago an Officer of one of the Patriotic Corps but the Spirit of Opposition & went over to the opposite Interest he was immediately branded with the Opprobrious Name of the American Renegado.

The Hague itself is not free from the most violent of this Party-rage. The Flame seems fanned here with additional Force by foreign Aid. It being the Seat of all the foreign Ministers & they fomenting a Party which bears a considerable Ivy alien to the Town itself, their Influence seems to be felt on the Modes of thinking here. Thereby appear ranged in opposite Columns & unite with this or that Party which the Interest often gives Dictates. In this Point of View the delightful Seat of the Muses & their Hyde Myrtlands for here which seems formed for Pleasure & repose of Society, is turned into a kind of political Field of Battle where the Foreign Troops are headed on one Side by the French, & on the other by the English Ambassador. Yet very much for the Honor of these two Gentlemen, whose Talents & Ivy are thus necessarily opposed & forced

to be active against each other they preserve the warmest personal Friendship. This was cultivated during their Residence at Petersburgh & seems to have lost nothing of its sincerity by being translated to the Hague. It is really pleasing Sport, as it does Honor to these Politicians to see the Marquis de Verac & Sir James Harris openly sip at each others Heels in the Appearance of the greatest Intimacy on the Evenings of the same Mornings that they have been exerting all their Efforts & putting every Engine of Intrigue in Motion to destroy the Plans the one of the other. — It will be of great Importance to America that the Minister she is at last to have here should know how to preserve a perfect Neutrality between these violent Parties, foreign & domestic — & from the Character she has of the Gentleman lately appointed we have every Reason to hope it will be done — I think it requires little Foresight to see that if America is represented with Dexterity & Circumspection for a few Years in the different Courts of Europe, she will necessarily have thrown into her Hands such a balancing Power as will enable her to secure very great Advantages for herself in a Variety of commercial Objects; & these alone seem to be worthy of her Attention.

I have said so much to you already, for that I fear to add more on the third Head of which I spoke above, than to say it is what is called the Quintuple Alliance, signed on the 23d of the last Month by the King of Prussia, the Elector of Saxony, & the Elector of Brunswick Lunenburg. — this has been explained to their High Mightinesses a few Days ago by a Declaration of the King of Prussia. The following Account is given me of it by a Gentleman here who is in the Secrets of these Politics — They will be all published to the World probably

(31.1.c)

private. Grosvenor Square Westminster Sept.r 6. 1785

Dear Sir

I had Yesterday the Honour of receiving your Letter of the first of August, and I pray you to accept of my Thanks for your kind Attention and obliging Civilities to my Son. It was the first News We had of him Since he sailed from L'Orient. I hope that, after remaining in N. York long enough to pay his Respects where they were due, he made haste to Boston. Your Reasoning, Sir, both upon the Powers of Congress and the Subject of the Debts is very just, and is such as I have urged, upon all Occasions, both to Ministers and Creditors. Nevertheless, I expect that the Debts will be urged as a Breach of Treaty, and as the Justification, Excuse, or Pretence, for withholding the Posts.

I can get no Answer from Ministers, neither in Writing nor in Conversation. They make me handsome Bows, look at me with Smiling Countenances, give me civil Words: but not one Word of explicit Answer, except in two or three Points Mr. Pitt & Ld Carmarthen gave me their opinions, which I have reported to Mr Jay.

I hope the States will not wait a Moment in hopes of any commercial Relief from this Court, but proceed to prohibit all Exports from the United States in British Vessells, untill We shall have an open Trade or a Treaty. A Navigation Act, in my Opinion, our Knights will extort Terms from Britain, if any Thing can. if not, it will be a great Fund of Wealth, our Ships and Mariners will be Castles and Garrisons to us, and the mutual Dependence of the States upon one another will be a Strong Cement of our Union in Interest and Affection.

The present Ministry may be the great Men they are represented to be. I will not affirm the contrary. It is problematical yet. Their Plans relative to the United States, relative to Ireland, relative to Holland, Germany, France, Spain, their own Finances, do not yet demonstrate them to be well informd and judicious, much less deep and great Statesmen. Their Schemes have been temporary and partial, as if adopted upon the Spur of the Occasion, to remove a present Pressure, or Silence a partial Clamour. if they had carried their Point in Ireland, I will not say what I think would have been their Conduct towards America.

From the Hints which dropped from Mr Pitt, I am of Opinion they are determined to keep the Posts, at least untill Something

farther Shall be done about the Debts. As to taking off the Alien Duty upon Oil, and admitting our Ships to their Markets, the national Voice and publick Opinion are decidedly against it, and therefore you must furnish the Ministry, in your Navigation Acts an Excuse to the Nation, before they will venture upon it.

I have Sent your Letter to Mr Steptoe, but I dont believe I Shall be able to Serve him in his Views. if I can I will. The United States must establish a Factory of their own, among the French, English, Dutch, Danes, Swedes &c. The Natives will be glad to See them; and the other European Factories too. if our Factory would treat them with Equity and Humanity. We Should be the most favoured Nation. Why Should We come to Europe for East India Goods? Why Should We purchase European Manufactures, if We can have India Manufactures equally good and for half the Price? our Vessells may go a trading and carry any Thing to Sell to the European Factories, and get Money of them to buy a Cargo of the Natives in return.

This Letter will be delivered you by Mr Storer, a Gentleman who assisted me in Mr. Thaxters Business at the Hague, and afterwards in the Hurry of

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the Conferences for the Peace at Paris.

With great Respect and Esteem I have
the Honour to be, Sir, your most
obedient Servant

John Adams

John Adams
Feb. 6. 1779

His Excellency R. H. Lee Esq

Hoyle Value (106) 653

Sir, Philadelphia September 11th 1785

I had the honor of receiving this morning your favor of the fourth instant concern-ing the letter from Count de florida Blanca to the President of Congress, which was delivered to me by Mr. Gardoque. Having considered that letter as a public one, I delivered it to Congress, and it now remains with their Secretary, if he has not sent it to your Office. I do not precisely remember the contents of the letter, and viewing it in the light of a public one, I have two difficulties, which I pray your assistance to remove. As a public letter, it would seem that the sentiments in answer should be dictated by Congress - As a private one, I should know exactly its contents which I do not. I shall be very happy to have your sentiments on this occasion after you have seen the letter; and I will readily

procure

pursue that course which your better knowledge of such busineſs shall point out to one.

Be pleased Sir to accept my thanks for your obliging wishes for the restoration of my health which is much amended since I have drank the waters in the vicinity of this place. My compliments, if you please, to Dr. Gaudoque.

I have the honor to be, with sentiments of much esteem and regard, Sir your most obedient and very humble servant

Richard Henry Lee.

Dear Sir

Richmond Sept. 24. 1785.

I am convinced, that the letter, which I wrote in answer to your favor, when you were on the point of departure for congress, must have miscarried; or I doubt not, that I should have received some mark of your friendly attention. Indeed I should not have waited for a reply, had not the barrenness of Virginia politics afforded so little scope even for a letter.

Altho the Judges have not delivered a formal opinion, I may yet venture to say, that a great majority will declare for the soundness of the principle, "No contribution, "but where the ship arrives in safety". Its influence however on your case may not be so great as we wish; since the jury have found for Conway as much as they possibly could. The next court of appeals will furnish some certainty as to the event, by the judgment, which they must render on a similar subject.

The clamor for paper money is very loud in different parts of this country: and the views of the advocates for the emission are not confined to the same objects. The payment of the military debt is the final cause with some — the increase of a circulating medium with others, and the discharge of british demands with a numerous class. At this moment the retreat of paper money seems to have locked up the specie, and thus affording a fresh plausibility for attempting to augment the medium by paper. Whether a difference between the fine [illegible] money will produce a

union, I cannot undertake to foretel; but some of the most strenuous are violently opposed to the quality of a tender. From this division, ~~unite~~ if continued, I argue the downfal of the scheme.

Religion too will form a capital figure in the debates of the next assembly. The presbyterians will have a sufficient force to prevent the general assessment, & possibly to repeal the act of incorporation. The delegates from those counties, in which the majority is of their persuasion, are affected with full and pointed instructions on both heads. Whatever may be the fate of the assessment, I cannot but consider the act of incorporation in the light of a compact, which legislative authority may dissolve by the arm of power, but not by the rules of justice and honour.

The conditional pardons, which have been lately granted to several criminals, have been spoken of, as a proper topic for the inquiry of the assembly. But the court of appeals will probably anticipate them, by a determination on their validity or invalidity. For my own part I conceive, that our constitution gives the executive the same power of pardoning, which the king of G. B. enjoys, and his has been recognized many years before the existence of any Statute concerning conditional pardons.

Every day brings
new proselytes [illegible] payment of British debts

the report of a negotiation, being opened by Mr. Adams on the infractions of the treaty, committed by G. B, has produced a doubt in the minds of some, who were not so disposed formerly whether measures for securing the payment ought not be delayed, until the result is known.

I am dear sir
with very great regard
y[r]. friend &c.

Edmund Randolph

Edmund Randolph
Sep 24th 1785.
1 Letter.
To Letter Sent.
(No 387.)

No 387.

1785

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New York October the 6. 1786

Sir,

The Letter that your Excellency did me the honor to write to me on the 8th of October last, was delivered to me by Mr. Don Diego de Gardoqui immediately on his arrival. Being soon after much indisposed, it became necessary for me to retire from Congress for the recovery of my health, and that circumstance deprived me of the pleasure of writing to your Excellency by a more early conveyance. The appointment of Mr. Gardoqui gave great satisfaction to the United States, and I flatter myself that the manner in which he was received, and will continue to be treated, will be perfectly agreeable to his Catholic Majesty. Be assured Sir that it is the sincere wish of this Country, not only to be on good terms with, but to cultivate the friendship of the Spanish Monarchy; and I am warranted to add, that the United States will chearfully join in concerting and concluding such friendly and commercial connections with his Majesty, as by properly settling ~~territorial~~ questions, and regulating the intercourse of the two nations on principles of reciprocity, may produce and perpetuate mutual harmony and good will between them. I pray God to bless your Excellency with long life, health, and happiness. With every consideration of high esteem and respect I have the honor to be Sir your Excellencies most obedient & most humble servant

Richard Henry Lee. P.

His Excellency
The Count de Florida Blanca.

B. of V.

New York October the 7th 1785

Dear Sir

I make no doubt but that you have seen in the public papers that my ill state of health had compelled me to quit this City and Congress to seek relief from leisure and the Chalybiate springs near Philadelphia - It is that circumstance that has prevented me from the pleasure of replying sooner to your favor of August the 22d; which I now do with many thanks for its obliging contents. The advantage that I received to my health from relaxation and the medical power of the springs I visited, has been very flattering, and will I hope furnish me with a stock of health sufficient to finish my Presidential year with some degree of comfort. I hear with singular pleasure that the very important business of opening the navigation of Potomac goes on so well. I will know how much the community will be obliged for your success in this useful work to your exertions. By a letter lately received from the hon. Col. Monroe, who is at Pittsburg

and

ind intends to be at the Indian Treaty this month at the mouth of Great Miami; we learn that the temper of the Indian Nations as nations, is not unfriendly to the U. States, and promising success, as well to the coming Treaty, as to the execution of the plan for surveying and disposing of territory beyond the Ohio for payment of the public debt. Colo. Monroe represents the Intruding Settlers N. W. of Ohio to be very few in number and they disposed to obey quickly the orders of Congress. The negotiation with Dr. Gardoqui proceeds so slowly, and as yet so ineffectually, that Jay says the free navigation of Mississippi is a point that we may take it for granted will not hastily be concluded upon. So that mischiefs from that source are probably postponed to a distant day. Jon G. Baldwin, they have been so engrossed with Irish affairs, that as yet Dr. Adams has done nothing at that Court. He represents the Ministry, or a majority of them, as seemingly well disposed to us; but fearing to do any thing decisive from because of the discontent and irritability of the National mind, which he thinks only wants money to recommence the Warr with us - On which account he recommends caution, steady, and moderate conduct on our part. The dispute between the Emperor & Holland is not yet settled that we know of - But a formidable League of Prussia, Saxony, Hanover, with some other powers, is actually signed to preserve inviolate the present State

of

the Empire against the intrigues of the Emperor who is elated
& being much alarmed at this League.

My brother A. Lee, who will have the honor of
delivering you this letter will also supply any defect of
intelligence that may have happened on my part—

I pray you Sir to present my respectful com=
pliments to your Lady with my wishes for her health.

I have the honor to be, with the most
perfect esteem, respect, and regard; dear Sir your
most affectionate and obedient servant

Richard Henry Lee.

Lond

New York Octo. 13th 1785

Dear Sir

my presence becoming necessary to my affairs in Europe I am about to leave this country, but before I go I wish to make a final settlement with the United States and to do this it is requisite to recur to the Conditions on which my services were first accepted by Congress, but as I do not wish them to rely wholly on me in a matter of this nature, I must beg leave to refer to the recollection of some of those Gentlemen who were in Congress at that time, Mr Jenny and some others have obligingly offered me their testimony, and as you Sir was then an active member and more conversant in the transactions of that time than may others I can apply to no one more likely to recollect what passed than yourself.

The facts I state to Congress are these That at my arrival at Congress I was received with Marks of distinction, and the next day was waited on by a Committee of Congress, composed of Dr Witherspoon Mr Henry of Maryland, and a third

whom I cannot at this time recollect. This
Committee demanded of me the conditions on
which I was inclined to serve the United States
and if I had made any Stipulations with the
Commissioners in Europe, I replied that I had
made no agreement with them, nor was it my
intention to accept of any Rank or Pay.—
That I wished to join the Army as Volunteer
and to render such services as the Commander
in Chief should think me capable of. adding
that I had no other fortune than a revenue
of about Six hundred guineas per annum
arising from Estates and Posts of honour in
Germany, which I had relinquished in order
to come to this country. that in consideration
of this I expected the U.S. would defray my
necessary expences whilst in their service
that if unhappily this country should not
succeed in establishing their Independence
or if I should not succeed in my endeavours
for their Service, in either of those cases
I should consider the United States free
from any obligation towards me but if on
the other hand, the U.S. should be happy

enough to establish their Freedom, and that I should be successfull in my endeavours then I should expect a full indemnification for the Sacrifice I had made in coming over, and such other marks of their generosity as the justice of the U. S. should dictate

That if there was a necessity to Congress I only waited their orders to join the Army without delay - the Committee were pleased to applaud the generosity of my proposition in thus risking my fortune in that of the U. S. they then left me and made their report the next day Congress gave me an entertain-ment after which the President McLean told me it was the desire of Congress, I should join the Army immediately - which I accordingly did

Here my dear Sir are the facts, I state and as I want the testimony of those Gentlemen who were in Congress at the time, and I must beg that you please to favour me with what recollect of the transaction - I should not press you, for your immediate compliance

13th Oct. 1785

with my request, but for the necessity of
terminating this business, before the season
for my return to Europe is too far advanced

No 413.

I am my Dear Sir

your most Obedient

humble Servant

Steuben

Francis L. Lee Esqr.

Steuben

No. 413

In Council Oct. 15th 1785

The Board taking into consideration the great injuries which the Citizens of this State sustain by the withholding from them, the interest due on loan office Certificates & other continental liquidated claims, whilst other States are daily receiving large sums on account of interest due on the domestic debt of the Union — Advise his Excellency to write to the continental Receiver for the State requiring him to pay to the holders of certificates for interest due on Loan Office Certificates & other liquidated debts in manner provided by an Act of Congress of the 28th April 1784 Sign'd A. Blair C. C.

Extract from the Act of Congress 28th April 1784

Journal for 1784 p. 181 — The Committee are therefore of opinion that the several Legislatures may be admitted so to model the Sums now called for, that the three fourths of any Sum [illegible] paid in actual money, the other fourth may be [illegible] by procuring discounts of interest with our domestic Creditors always taking care that the collection money shall proceed at least on three fold proportion with the operations of discount. And to ascertain the Sum of discount which shall be receivable in lieu of money, the holders of loan office Certificates shall be at liberty to carry them to the office from which they issued, & the holders of Certificates of other liquidated debts of the U. S. to carry the same to the loan office of that State where the debt was contracted & to have the interest due thereon settled & certified to the last day of 1782, for which interest the Loan Officer shall give a Certificate in such a form & under such cautionary directions as the Superintendant of finance shall transmit to him — Which Certificates of interest being parted with

by the holder of the principal, shall be deemed evidence that he has received satisfaction for the same & therefore shall be receivable from the bearer in the same state & from the State whereof obtained from the bearer in lieu of money in the proportion before stated, which payment & certificates by the States into the public treasury in proportion that each state avails itself of the facilities shall be considered as a discharge of so much of the interest due upon the domestic debt, so that the three fourths or greater proportion, if any state should not avail itself of the facilities in the degree hereby admitted, paid in money at the same time shall be applied according to the above statement.

Dear Sir. New York October the 17. 1785

I have received the letter that you did me the honor to write to me from Pittsburg and I am much pleased to find by it that the Indian nations, as nations, are not indis=posed to us - I think it augurs well to our treaty at Miami, and for the survey & sale of western territory. I am very unhappy to inform you of the death of our most worthy friend Mr. Hardy. He has been sick almost ever since you left this place, and early this morning he departed this life greatly reduced, and without much apparent pain - His loss to the public is great - I wish sincerely that the Assembly may be both able & willing to fill his vacancy with equal ability & virtue - but unfortunately for the good of society, such characters as poor Hardy are rarely to be found, and too frequently bad men are ~~found~~ ready to oppose merit & to thrust themselves forward into places that should be filled alone by sense & virtue. Col. Grayson proposes to sell the horses that you & Mr. Hardy had on hire with us, as they will soon eat their heads off here, and where no Owner wants their use. We have too much reason to apprehend that the Algarines have declared war against our Commerce - These pirates having lately made a profitable peace with Spain, they have now (to the shame of Europe be it said) almost the whole of Europe their Tributaries, so that having

having little plunder now to get from that quarter, the Arm of Rapine is stretched out against us. It is most clear to me ~~that~~ from Mr. Adams's ~~his~~ account of what passed between him & the Secretary of State concerning the British debts, that if our Assemblies do not irritate by throwing obstructions in the way of the Treaty of peace we shall obtain every reasonable wish concerning time for payment— He seems to be apprehensive of Violence— for he says "It cannot be too strongly recommended to Citizens of property be held sacred." You will find that the business of Facilities, inculcate as it is as contended for when you were here. It is to me most plainly ~~void~~ improper, that our Assembly should Tax our people, only for Federal purposes, what will suffice to pay our Quota of the foreign interest, and ~~the~~ the expences of the federal government; and not admit any facilities to be received in discharge of the Taxes but such as have originated with our own Citizens— This Act will disappoint the plan of purchasing our produce with the certificates of those Northern States which will pay the domestic Creditors in their States whilst our own go unpaid— And thus we shall realy give a bribe to prevent the settlement of our

Accounts

and consequently prevent the payment of our own
Citizens who are at least as large Creditors of the U.
States as the Citizens of any other State—

I shall be very happy to see you at Chantilly
before you leave Virginia to return to Congress—

I am dear Sir your friend and
Servant Richard Henry Lee

P. S. Poor Hardy is to be buried in the
evening of tomorrow under the direction and
auspices of Congress—for his funeral we are
adjourned two days. R. H. Lee

Sir/ Council board Oct.r 20.th 1785

Upon reflection I think the mode by you adopted of waiting for the Instructions of the Board of Treasury respecting the Assignment of the Warrants for interest on Loan Office Certificates &c, improper & am ready to sign with the Trustees as you have pro- bursuant

I am &c

Signed Patrick Henry

Resolv'd that the Treasurer be & he is hereby directed to exchange 32086 dll.s of this State quota to the U. S. for the amount thereof in Certificates for interest due upon the Continental Loan Office Certificates issued in this State & for the Liquidated Debts of the Citizens of this State the Liquidated Debts of the Citizens which have been issued up to the 31.st Dec.r next. That he pay the same or so much thereof as he can procure on or before the 1.st of Jan.y 1788 to the Continental Loan Officer in discharge of this States quota to the U. S.

Passed the House of Delegates Dec.r 31.st 1785

Senate Do.

New York October the 29. 1783

(5)

Dear Sir

My ill state of health having compelled me to look for benefit from the medical springs lately discovered in the vicinity of Philadelphia, I there received the letter that you did me the honor to write me on the 12th of July - but tho Mr. Houdon arrived there with Dr. Franklin when I was in the City, the former of these gentlemen did not deliver your letter to me, but it found me thro the medium of the Post. I have not yet seen Mr. Houdon, nor has he been in any manner before Congress that I know of - he went immediately after his landing to General Washington, from whence I understand that he has returned to this City a day or two ago, but I have not yet seen him. Your request, independent of his singular merit, will secure him every civility and service in my power - I think that you have cause, from your statement, to complain of the remissness of your Correspondents - Were I not prevented by the unhappy state of my health, most certainly I should be more attentive to gratify you in a way that certainly must be very agreeable to

you

your requested copies from your own Country. I think that we have reason to suppose that the requisition of this year (which I have now the honor to enclose you) will produce, at least a sufficiency to pay with credit the interest of our foreign debt and to support the expences of the federal government. The unliquidated state of the domestic debt, and the unequal burthen of the facilities may perhaps obstruct for the present, the payment of the domestic interest. I understand the displeasure of the Commissioners of the Treasury arose from Mr. Grand's failing to comply with orders given him to pay the interest due to the Crown of France which has created uneasiness and doubt of our punctuality where there would not have existed had Mr. Grand not undertaken to pay himself instead of the Government. However, I suppose that the Commissioners will take care to make good the payments omitted by Mr. Grand to have been made to Government. Vermont remains as it was, and we have heard nothing lately concerning Transalleghania. The Virginia Assembly are agreed, so far as I know, to indulge Kentucky provided it shall be agreeable to the U. States to receive them into the Confederacy so that they may for every purpose be a part of the general system. A proposition is depending before Congress to declare the sense of the Union against all future dismemberments without the consent of the State to be dismembered and of

the

that

with United States — Concerning your idea of packets I have spoken to some Members — the expence alarms, & they seem rather to approve of sending on occasion a Courier in the packets as they now are — But since a plan has lately been adopted for sending the Mail by Stages instead of Post Riders, which will not only quicken communication greatly, but very much increase the Post Office Revenue, I hope that Packets as well as Coast Posts may ere long be supported. We have lost poor Hardy who died here after some weeks illness — The Surveyors are now at work under the Ordinance N. West of Ohio, and a Treaty with the Western Indians is proceeding at Great Miami — Our Assembly is now in Session, but we have not heard whether Harrison or Tyler has got the Chair, but certainly the contest will have been warm & spirited &c — My Presidential year ends in 9 days, after which I shall return to Virginia for some months at least, my return to Congress depending on the state of my health which is better indeed, but far yet from being as I wish it. Believe me where I will I shall always be happy to hear from you and to give you the news of our Country such as it may be: My brother Arthur Lee being resident here as one of the Commissioners of the Treasury of the U. States, will receive your Letters for

for me and forward them to Virginia — I shall esteem it a very particular favor if you will be so good as send me one of the newly invented Philosophical Lamps which I understand to be handsome, useful, and economical employing a small quantity of oil to great advantage in giving light. I will either thankfully repay the cost to your order in Virginia, or remit it to you in Europe thro the medium of my Brother Arthur from whom I hope you will know that you may convey it by one of the Packets to my brothers care in this City. And it will add to the favor if you accompany the Machine with a description of its use.

I am dear Sir, with sentiments of the sincerest esteem and regard, your most obedient and very humble servant

Richard Henry Lee

P. S. Remember me if you please to Mr. Short & tell him that I answerd immediately the only letter that I have had the pleasure to receive from him (R. H. Lee

Encl. to Mr

(No 404)

New York Nov. 30th 1785.

Dear Sir

W. Grayson No 95

I have very little news to communicate Mr. Hancock is appointed President but it is much doubted whether he will accept of this high Office: - it was surely improper to play the intriguing game on such an occasion: - the business immediately before Congress is whether Mr. Temple shall be received as Consul Genl from G. B. or not; - there are on this occasion different sentiments, though I presume when the States are fully represented (there being but seven at present) that it will be decided in the affirmative as Congress seem to have committed themselves as they have

resolved that the Ministers, & Charges des affaires of the U. S. are Consuls Gen. ex Officio of course Adams is now Consul Gen. at the Court of G. B. — as soon as the dispatches from the Secy for foreign affairs arrive. Temple himself is in a peck of trouble about it; it seems a very good salary depends on the decision: — Since your departure Adams has given us another fire, to the old tune of commercial restrictions: Jay & Thomson have thought his last address of so much importance as to send official letters to the States to require the immediate attendance of the Members. — It is a letter extraordinary that Mr Adams should recommend a commercial war, when in the same letter he agrees that in the prosecution of this commercial war

it is highly probable we shall in
cur a real war. — We are no doubt
in a good situation for war. — I inclose
you a schedule of the advances to the
States, by which you will see that
Virginia has had Cash by a million
of dollars than her proportion. — No
advantage it seems can however
be taken of this circumstance in
the next requisition, as the resolu-
tion of the 3d of June 1784 suspends
the payment of interest till the
final settlement of the accounts after
it till the day of Judgment. —

I read some part of your
letter at the Sycamore alias
the Virginia Hotel, which gave

(№ 404) [illegible]

W. Grayson
Nov. 38th 1785.

no small satisfaction, & like an able negotiator, I drew some small advantages from it myself; perhaps it may still be productive: — I had the honor of escorting them to the play the other evening, when they made so beautiful & elegant an appearance, as to depopulate all the other boxes of the House & Philadelphia. They beg me to present their best regards to you. — If it was not for the intervention of Mr Lee, perhaps the expression might be more animating —) I am just on the point of leaving this place: — shall hereon any thing new occur I will write you — Affect[ly] & most Obed[t] Ser[t]

Wm. Grayson

House of Delegates 8th Dec. 1785

Resd. That the Treasurer be & he is hereby directed to exchange 32186 dlls of these States quota & the U.S. for the assumpt thereof on certificates for interest due on the C.D. office for certificates issued on this State & for the liquidated [illegible] of the Citizens of this State [illegible] by John Hopkins which have been or may be issued up to the 31st Dec. next.

Agreed to by the Senate

Recd the 2d Jan.y 1786 from the Treasurer of Virginia in part of the requisitions of 27th & 28th April 1785 Sundries 29,901,7/ dlls

J. Hopkins C.D. Officer

Sir/ Newyork Dec.r 29.th 1783

I perceive by the act of the 3.d Dec.r of the present Session, that the Assembly expect it is in the power of the loan Officer to issue Certificates for interest, which will be receivable for two thirds of the States quota upon the requisition of the 29.th Sep.r 1783 to the U. S. But this is a mistake. The Loan.r must receive the Certificates from the Board of Treasury, who cannot re-remit them till they have official information that the Legislature have passed an Act for carrying the requisition into execution. The above act is so far from being conformable, that it is directly opposed to the requisition. The act confines the Certificates receivable for 2/3.ds of the quota, to those issued by John Hopkins Esq.r L. O. for the State — the Requisition says the Certificates where soever issued, shall be receivable from the bearer in lieu of money in the proportion aforesaid, in any other State

State in the Union, as well as in the State in which they were issued.

The act farther authorizes the Collectors to receive in payment of 2/3ds of the taxes, certificates issued or to be issued by the Continental L.O. Whereas no certificates can be received by that Officer, in discharge of the requisition of the 27. Sepr. 1785, nor for any interest that has accrued since the last of Decr. 1782, but such as the Commissioners of the Continental Treasury shall cause to be struck on a bank paper, which cannot be issued till a legislative act shall have passed complying with all the conditions of the requisition.

Your Excellency will therefore see that the above Act, will in fact deprive our fellow citizens of all the advantages intended by Congress, both in paying their quota by facilities arising upon their own liquidated debt from the U. S. and in obtaining, in such case, money on very advantageous terms, from the speculation done in other States

~~The resolve of the H. of Del.~~

equally inadequate — in enabling the citizens of the State to receive monies from the treasurer out of the quota of the U. S. on interest Certificates issued up to the 1st Dec.r 1790. because no Certificates can be received by the U. S. but such as issued previous to the last of Dec.r 1789. Indeed the L. O. is expressly confined to that period for issuing them — therefore either there are no such Certificates for the association to act on; or

I owe it to the liberty of troubling your Excellency with this letter, that if the Preamble should be what it seems, provision may be made for the benefit to our fellow Citizens whose Depreciation intended, & who in expectation of compliance with it with promises.

I have the honor to be
with entire respect
Your Excellency's most
obed.t Serv.t

His Excellency
the Governor
of Virginia

69.

The lowest contract for clothing the troops of the U. S. in 1785. a years Clothing for one Soldier

1 Coat	£	1.18
1 pr Breeches		17
1 pr. woolen Overalls		11
2 pr. linnen do. 9/6		19
4 Shirts 8/6	1.	14
1 Hat		6.6
4 pr. Stockings 2/		8
1 pr. Socks		9
4 pr. Shoes 6/6	1	6
1 Blanket		11
1 pr Shoe buckles		1
1 Stock		6
1 cloth cloak		6
£	8. 13.	3

1785

Specie Money

European Exports to China Annually

	Silver Specie	Goods
Sweden	1,935,168.	627,600
Denmark	2,161,630	231.000
Trance	4,000,000	400,000
Holland	2,735,400	44600
England	5,443,564	5,813566
	16,275764	6,916,666
	6,916,666	
Total Exp[t]	23,192430.	
Imports	26,754,194.	
Balance		

	Pepper	Raisins	Lime	Mace
G. Britain	11	15,397 lbs.	50000	465
France	24	18	300000	266
Germany	26		3:3000	
Russia	20	6	450000	63
Holland	236000.	4	3700	95
Spain &c.	10	5	60000	130
Sweden	3	1,3 0000	50000	85
Denmark	2. 200000	1	72	60
Portugal	2	2	20	20

Timmerman

Net Produce of Imp[t]
in Wheat - Bushels
600,0000 Stock
Wood & Pasturage
7,000,000
Persons employed
in Agriculture
2,800,000
Woollens exported
4,500,000
Wheat exported
1,600,000

Revenue & Expenditure of G. Britain for the year 1785

Total Receits ——— £15,397,471.

Expenditure 1786

Interest & Charges on the Debt	9,275,769
Exchequer bills	258,000
Civil List	900000
Charges on the Aggregate fund	64600
Navy	1,800000
Army	1,600000
Ordnance	348000
Militia	91,000
Miscellaneous	74,274
Appropriated duties	66538
	14,478,181
Annual Surplus	919,290
	15,397,471

National debt in 1706 — 239,154,879.

Land & Malt	2600000	Counties Eng.	40
Customs	4586,662	Wales	12
Excise	5,392,642	Represent's in H. of C.	
Stamps	1,162,695	Total	558
Houses, Winds Servants, Horses Wheels &c	1,358,115	Counties	122
	16,099,995	Cities	50
		Boroughs	366
		Universities	4
		Cinque ports	16

£

6

Loan Office debt of the U. S.

	Nominal Sum	Reduced
New Hamp.	972,700	300,092. 30/90
M	8.092,907	2,361,866. 66. 5
R. I	1,866,800	699,725. 37. 4
C	4,293,200	1,269,677. 43.
N. C	3,509,800	949.729. 57
N. J	4 549,900	458, 886. 69
P	28,522 500	3,948, 904. 14. 4
D	587, 000	665, 820. 13. 7
M	3,993, 300	410, 218. 30
V	2.959, 800	313, 741. 32. 3
N C	1 209. 800	313, 341. 11. 1
S C	3, 846, 405	218, 042, 48, 3
G	951, 000	90442. 10. 1
	65, 305, 112.	11, 400, 485. 64. 1
Lott. Wages.	1,763,000	62, 316, 57.

Total Consolidated 11,463,802. 31/90 1/00

Lands given by the U. S. to the Army serv.d
to the end of the War

Majr Genl.	1100 Acres
Brig.r Do	800.
Col.	500
L. Col	450
Major	400
Cap.	300
Lieut.t	200
Non Com.d & Private	100

Lands sold by the Proprietors Pensylv.a

adjourned	£5
Reserv.d	6. 8. 2
Equal to Dollrs 53	£ 11. 8 2 st. p.r hund.d
in Maryland	5.
Quit Rent 4/ p.r An:	
Equal to Dollrs 87.	

State Debts ~~1790~~

N. H.

M. 1705 Mass. Int. — 1,468,554.7.5.

R. I. Comm. Int. — 88,112,13.3.

C.

N. Y.

N. J.

P.

D.

M. — 634,176.0.0

V.

N. C.

S. C.

G.

Exports from S. Carolina 1782

	1782	1783
Rice	23160 brr	50923
	2129 Lasts	6122
Indigo	827 Casks	2051
Tobacco	643 Hhds	2680
Deerskins	161 Bdls 26 Hhds	651
Pitch	665 brrls	4077
Tar	540 —	2409
Turpent.	936 —	7331
Lumber	251800 feet	705200
Shingles	216000	1,372,600
Staves	12,900	402,100
Indn Corn	6645 bush	16600
Hides		807
Leather		2703
Hemp		3 Ton
Gensing		17 Casks
Flax Seed		171 Bus
Reeds		147,750

Exported in

Ships	19	90
Snows	1	10
Brigs	71	148
Sloops	73	163
Schooners	139	259
Luggers		1
Cutters		2

Now is not the time for a new arrangement of the
Office of finance

It is to the firmness of Mr. Morris
His personal Credit has supported public credit
clothed & fed the Army &c.

The public will judge from this that
he is a wise & honest man.

Is he to be censured because he insists
upon permanent funds which Congress
have resolved are necessary.

Now would be the time most favorable
for any attempt to injure.

R. Morris to B. Franklin.

Office of Finance Feb.y 18. 1782.

Dear Sir — I have written to you under yesterdays date on a very interesting subject & I will now add something for the republick I did not choose to plain in that letter as a Copy of it is transmitted to the hands in Holland And first I will give you an account of my situation as accurately as possible, in order that — you may fully state of my engagements & the means of fulfilling them — you may rest at ease under the operation. I have requested, & will I must now strongly urge & entreat you to engage in.

My present actual engagem.ts are threefold Viz.t 1.st Gen.l Engagem.ts for the

† Something must have been omitted here as it does not seem intelligible — but I have copied it verbatim & literatim. R. Lee

of public service not yet satisfied
leading therein the Notes issued by me
which remain in circulation 2. My Bills
of Exchange not paid 3. my debts to the
Nat. Bank.

The first of these is desirous
to ascertain with exactness - for I take
into the account all payments to be made
for past services & the like, & set against
it ordinary sums to be received & the public
goods which are yet to arrive. It cannot be
expected therefore that any great precision
will take place in this estimate, but from
the clearest insight I have, the Amount
is rather under than over 100000 Dls
The 2. stands thus - I drew for 1,000000 Dls
of which calculating to the extent, not more
than one half remains unprovided for, as
I have observed in letter of yesterday. The
half may be considered as of the value of
200,000 Dls. Besides this sum I have

three
drawn, Bills of 250000 Dlls
amount to 400000 Dlls, but as I have
that these Bills shall not be protested
they are not to be carried to debt of
Bills of Exchange — My debt to the
Nat'l Bank is the above named
300000 Dlls obtained of them by dis-
counting Notes received for the Bills of
Exchange & the Notes they will continue
on interest, until taken up by my pay-
ments here, or by monies received by the
drafts of the parties who gave them &
my Bills be eventually paid in Europe.

In this calculation you will per-
ceive, I make no mention of any mo-
nies w^h I suppose to be in the hands of
M^r. Grand, because — for the greater
certainty — I will consider them as
equal to answer for contingencies only

the other hand, I will not calculate
at the sum on Monies borrowed
upon, because this that object may
be stated as of the value from 160,000
to 200000 Dlls yet to answer at 9 p Cent
1st The general system for funding the
public Debt, 2d whatever small
sums may arise on the Dutch Loan
supposing it to have no surplus worth
counting on for other purposes. Here
therefore We will state the deficiencies of the
1st of the present month thus.

Balance due for past Services	Dlls 100000
Do for Bills of Exch.e drawn	200000
Do to the National Bank	340000
	640,000
Contingencies	10000
	Dlls 650,000

We come now to the means of making payment after negotiating all hopes of any National aid from the Dutch Loan.

And they are as follows

The

The taxes for the last year
ending the 31st. Jan.y are
about more than 2000000 Dls. —
Three states the States of Delaware, N.
Carolina & Georgia, have as yet paid
nothing, neither is there any thing
paid by the State of S. Carolina, within
the last of those months. The States of
N. Hampshire, Connecticut N. York
Maryland & Virginia, have paid very
little in proportion to their present
ability. The other four States will all
by the extension of present measures,
be in better circumstances for several
than before — From the States of
N. York, Maryland, Virginia & Ca-
rolina, I expect to derive very con-
siderable relief, particularly from the

proposed sale of unappropriated
lands will fall short of my estimate
probable increase of the Revenue
more than enough to pay the current
expenditures, exclusive of the surplus
of the proposed sales of lands, & amounting
to no more than 2 5000 Dlls. by the 1st
of Sept.r next. This then will place the
Treasury unprovided for at the amount
of 100,000 Dlls. The fund to pay it at
5000 p.r month. That fund will dis-
charge the 1st. Article above mentioned
by the end of March. The next thing to
be provided for is the Interest & an-
nuer Bills of Exchange drawn. The in-
tended provision for that object is as
follows — I shall borrow immediately
10000 Dlls of the Bank, & direct the pur-
chases of those Dft. Bills, partly with cash
partly on credit & partly with Bills drawn
on me. By this means. By this means

100000 dlls have the funds
in all march & April, &
shipm.ts to the request an
200 000 lb come in march, 100m
in april & all of them. I hope by the
end of May. The taxes during April
& May will pay the purchases on
credit & the Bills drawn on me, &
the taxes in June & July will pay
the 100000 due to the Bank. By
the end of Sept. therefore I may ex-
pect a full discharge of all the debts.

If the loan should meet with
success my relief will be more
speedy, but you will see, by, from
this detail what is most impor-
tant to you, Viz. That the funds
be pledged in Europe during the war

July to pay the half millions
which I desire you to provide
now the mode of remitting
negociation to be very familiar with
your Bankers — but I owed hint
at the following as probable. Suppose the
houses in Amsterdam to draw on the mont.
of march on Mr Grand at 60 days sight, Mr
Grand might in may draw on a good
house in London for his full reim-
bursment, & the house in London might
in like manner reimburse on Messrs
le Coulteux & Cie by which time the Re
mittances would arrive. Or the time
might be still further extended if
the House in London should reimburse
on Messrs Willinks & Hase on M. le
Coulteux or the last bills might be
perhaps drawn on Mr Grand instead

enclosed of M. le Couteulx. to
journey that the credit of
ought to be useful. I have
them to aid your opera
you think proper to ad

And now my dear

I close this letter, entreat you most ear-
nestly, that the public credit must be
preserved to us not totally lost
for want of an effort which is but
nothing in comparison with what
we have already experienced & hoped
there with success.

Signed R. Morris.

His Excel.ᵗ The Governor of N
Sir Office of Finance

That my official
Intercourse to the present m
the deliberations of the Ge
means to discharge th
which I had taken for the
forgoing invectives of Mr
Excellency will believe me when I assure
only assure you, that the greatest Advocates
for a Change cannot more earnestly desire
any determination, than I myself do. I hope that
their memorials by Mr Jay will speedily be put
to the Trial. They by granting money
& by refusing, can best evince, that our
Professions are founded in truth. Pray, Sir
it has happened, that the reasons for granting
money to the Union, have required an additional
weight from considerations personal to one
& perhaps in the only way in which I could have
given them any efficacy

Whatever sinister causes may have
been suggested to invalidate my former
applications, I sincerely hope, that at this

not entirely to comply with
the wishes, for promoting the public
Good as flowing from a common
measure necessary to the peace
& security. to one it can pro-
-mote convenience, nor profit
may chance will be in
any fellow citizens, & should
calamities overwhelm in common with them
But the numerous claims of sufferers in whose
particular favor [illegible] there is to be
sustained will shape itself with an advocate
in every bosom. Justice, feeling, humanity
press the measure upon our feelings & reflec-
-tion, if it be objectionable let it be considered
how seldom any human plan was formed
to which objections may not be made. For
union, necessary as it is to our existence, is
still liable to objections. And government
without which we cannot participate in the
benefits of society, will always in some thing
or other give room for clamor discontent.

I hope, Sir, this application from me
will be at least excused. It is the last. It is

the general result of the
treaty. There will be some effect
have that influence, with
proceed when I know fr.
they proceed, or what then
next move connected
Presume Texas & do.
Yours &c

James Lovell Esq.

Sir

I am well persuaded,
of the best Congress are
the office of Receiver,
and Officer. Which
be abolished in one
of the two others to
not giving particular dispositions in
order to accomplish particular pur-
poses. It is a pleasant thing, to serve
nine discontented masters for such are
paid etc. The members of Congress
are not half so bad, as the character
they gave of each other, but I wish
both you & I very fairly quit of them.

I think the office of Receiver &
Loan officer also may be dispensed with,
the latter in all cases, the former in some—

I am Robert Morris

I do not know that I may say a very high
compliment to those members of Congress
with whom I am associated, when I say
to you, the Gentlemen to whom

His Excellency the President of the

Office of

There is not one Shi[illegible]re

and therefore I can only make the payment in Notes.

It shall however be made, altho there is but

too much reason to apprehend consequences of the

most alarming nature.

is to

arrest / Office

This is to

acknowledge of Jour

15 June last, to

intended in my a

them to close over,

dence, & I have always been an

mente in my expectations of being

able expeditiously to quit this offices.

That period however so ardently

desired, is at length nearly arrived and

while I look back at care & danger

past, I feel an increased emotion of joy

by a comparison with future hope

& expectations. But I cannot review

the past I must, without strong feelings

el for
ve have made
ames of this Country
l your first Settlement
tion were as fully
erly understood in
time is necessary to
nclose the Judgment of a Country
as of a Man, happy indeed shall
we be if it produce that effect among
us. I am much obliged by your expla

— ve, this,
is lodged at the
most proper
manner he
pleases to you
nection with c.
have not reach'd me. I am per-
suaded that non such can make
any impression w.ch ought to give you pain.

I have not remitted Bills
for Salaries of the foreign Ministers
because the resolutions of Congress
having varied & M. Grand having
informed me, that he should pay

(a) a million of Livres out of the public
money being put in Chaumont's hands
by D.r Franklin without any orders or
known purpose — never repaid — nor
accounted for to this day — but by D.r
Franklin operating to a settlement with
out a single voucher, might well
create suspicions — See Barclays
settlements. 1779. dft.

message

not that the attachm[ent]
as I have given
Dr on the Commiss.
in Holland, for
M. le Coulteux
in a balance, in
their hands. I have no doubt but
he will be in cash for the purpose
I agree with you that a fund ought
to be set apart, for contingencies, & has
I continued & been augmented in the
administration, such a fund should
certainly have been provided.

should have urged a
of every allowance
thereby contracting
Exigencies. But a
be annihilated, I
made no determin
ject. Indeed it is a very difficult &
almost disreputable for them to make
arrangements of expenditure, while the
means of expenditure are so thank-
fully withheld by their Constituents.

I have already said, that I see
fit the abatements laid on the

(if That Measure
decidedly obtain a cor-
rect result I presume
we been occasioned by
no purely domestic
nobody cannot guess
nothing can be more
unnecessary than to find a subject
countenanced in arresting the proper-
ty of a Sovereign Power, in this en-
lightned age & in a country w.h of all
others has been most concerned for a

(a) This was laid by Schweighauser &
others for supplies furnished to the Fri-
gate Alliance, which D.r Franklin
refused to pay because, he alledged they
were furnished contrary to his orders.
The Merch.ts proved this to be false, yet
D.r F. would neither pay nor had the
interest enough at Court to get any
redress for this affront. This violation
of the Law of Nations & this injury
to the property of the U.S. The attachment
continued till Mr. Jefferson's Ministry
when on his arriving the Board of Treasury
that the demand was just the Debt was paid.
J. L.

friends, I find that
country is worse
I am therefore due
of the gentlest[illegible]
owed myself
country your
public or private
warmest wishes

[illegible]ful or.
What my best wishes for your happin
ess shall be cloathed with the utmost
efforts in my power, to promote it
on every proper occasion - for I am
&c &c Signed Ch. Harris

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Contra 27th Oct 1775	45.000.
9th — do	14.000
5th Sept 1776	80.000.
Amount due on Loans 19th Sept 1776.	200.000
Arrears Rents &c — 14th Oct 1776.	14.000 —
do Current	157.032. 33.
Debt Rents	200.715. 15 —
Rents & Debt	90.000. —
Amount for do	927.347 . 78
Amount of the Rents Debts & Arrears for the Accounts he produces	142.663
Balance now Stated	484.684. 78

When a Gentleman has been trusted in a high public employment & he is found in any instance to have neglected the public interest to promote views whether of himself or others; he certainly becomes unworthy of a second trust. Let us try Mr. Clymer by this rule.

Mr. Clymer was trusted as a member of Congress with the care of very important public rights. In this situation he is specially trusted with two others to be a Committee of Commerce — To that Committee the settlement of the Accts. of Messrs. Bingham, who had to account for public property & made demands for monies expended, to mea-

a matter on all was agreed. Mr. Clymer, this informed by the Gen- erally that part of his demand was unfounded, & no vouchers to his accounts — he has been without any evidence, but the men deal themselves — which indeed were evidence, that they were unjust- ly & Mr Morris pays to Mr Bing ham the hard money which was borrowed to cloth & feed the Army. Is this the manner in which Mr Robert Morris transacts his own affairs — Is this the manner in which Mr G. Clymer settles his own Accounts! Suppose that Mr. Clymer did this, out of mere indolence & inattention — if Cha

ility can be strained so far — let me ask whether such indolence is worthy of a public trust of the highest consequence?

These are among the transactions referred to in a late report on the federal Treasury in these words — "Your Committee find that other considerable Sums have been paid out of the Treasury, of which no appropriation is to be found on the public journals of Congress. Several of them remain to be accounted for. Of the Accounts which have been partially settled, or settled without authority, or without proper Vouchers, two or three by reason of their magnitude have claimed the particular attention of your Committee. Their amount is little short of half a million of dollars specie. And tho' by Acts of June 14th 20. 1781. & April 16. 1782 those Accounts appear to have claimed the attention of Congress; your Committee find it remain very doubtful to this, whether many of the charges against the U.S. which are stated in those Accounts — have any solid foundation."

This report seems to speak for the public — for truth & justice. You will find no such [illegible] reports where Mr Tuttle, Mr Seymour & Mr Clymer were concerned & Mr Robert Morris or his connections were the objects. Their reports are courtly & complying — they are panegyrics not reports. Elect the City List, with Messrs Tuttle, Seymour & Clymer at their head, into the new Congress — & instead of plain truth & [illegible] of public justice — you will have from [illegible] panegyrics on [illegible] public plunderers

be heinside) on by both Nations is blood and
plunder; the darling objects of their life) is certain
and in so doing it really militates against
the interests & honor of both governments. for
the more these Wolves are fed with human
blood or the hope of it supplied with what
they want in plunder & presents, the less they
will hunt & the scarcer deer furs will
be. Insomuch that I think it certain
that a convention solemnly entered into
& announced, by G. B. & the U. S. never to
employ, or countenance Indians in
making war or depredating on each other
would not only do honor to their humanity
but really promote their interest by the
abundance & cheapness of furs in consequence of
the Savages having no other employment
but the people had to hunt for support but hunting. There re-
sort the abominable practice of instigating the Savages to
sons are alone cogent enough to
ed human blood and
notorious cruelty of these Savages as
auxiliaries
in war— The great expence &
disorder that accompanies them— The
ungovernable, cruelty of their warfare
depredations
their certain desertion in time of danger,
render the employment of them by civi-
zed Nations both inconvenient & reproachful.

There are very few things I do not desire you my Lord, that would give me so much pleasure as spending sometime in your Society, wherein I have been hitherto so happy. But the state of our finances in this country, both public & private, will not permit me to travel. The prospects I once had in England are now no more, nor will the situation of things permit the renewing them. But I will not ~~have~~ give up ~~the~~ all hope of one day having my respects to your Lordship ~~shall also be thought~~ regarded for me as a singular honor ~~I shall~~ ~~have~~ ~~the~~ ~~honor~~ ~~of~~ ~~presenting~~ ~~this~~ ~~letter~~ ~~to~~ ~~your~~ ~~Lordship~~ ~~&~~ ~~which~~ ~~I~~ ~~must~~ ~~beg~~ ~~leave~~ ~~to~~ ~~recommend~~ ~~to~~ ~~your~~ ~~Lordships~~ ~~favorable~~ ~~notice~~ ~~&~~ ~~protection~~ ~~as~~ ~~he~~ ~~is~~ ~~entirely~~ ~~a~~ ~~stranger~~ ~~in~~ ~~England~~ ~~&~~ ~~without~~ ~~friends~~ ~~or~~ ~~connections~~ ~~to~~ ~~solicit~~ ~~for~~ ~~him~~ ~~&~~ ~~he~~ ~~is~~ ~~desirous~~ ~~to~~ ~~pursue~~ ~~his~~ ~~studies~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~Temple~~ ~~&~~ ~~will~~ ~~soon~~ ~~be~~ ~~at~~ ~~liberty~~ ~~to~~ ~~do~~ ~~so~~.

My nephew Tho.s Lee Shippen will have the honor of presenting this letter to your Lordship. He comes to finish his law studies at the temple. Your Lordships patronage to him will be a singular happiness to him & favor to me. I hope you will find him intelligent & capable of giving your Lordship a satisfactory account of the State of this Country.

With the most perfect respect, I have the honor to be Your Lordships most Obed.t Servt.

Place
to Shew
on Map
of

Vanderlyn
a Friend to
Liberty
in Carlotte

Copy of a Letter
from Mr. Jefferson
Dated 26th May 1786

Board of Treasury Jany. 31st 1786

Sir,

We have received your Letter of the 7th Instant Enclosing Sundry Papers relative to the Business of your Office.

You observe that more than two years and a half have Elapsed since your Appointment as Loan Officer, during which, you have not received, directly or Indirectly, any thing for your Service or Expences.

You are Entitled to Charge two Per Cent on the Amount of the Interest certified by you, which you state to be Fifty four thousand, two hundred and forty four Dollars — and whenever your Account is settled at the Comptrollers Office, (which ought to be done as soon as possible) a Warrant will issue for the Money due to you: beyond the Commissions you are Entitled to by the Resolves of Congress, we are not authorised to give you any Encouragement. — So far from

from its being in the Power of the United States to augment Salaries, it will be in a short Time impossible for them to pay those, which are at present Established, unless the most Vigorous Exertions are immediately made to Supply the common Treasury. ~

The Comptroller of the Treasury has been for some Time Engaged in Establishing Forms for the Transaction of the Business of your Office; and we presume will transmit them in a short time. ~

As soon as the State have decided on the last Requisition, you will be pleased to give Information of it to this Office. ~

We are, Sir,

Your most Obed.t humble Serv.ts ~

Samuel Brook
Walter Livingston
Arthur Lee

Nath.l Gilman Esq.r
Commissioner of the
Loan Office, State of
New-Hampshire.

Gen. Lee

New York 22nd 1786.

(No 407)

D. Sir.

I have had the pleasure of receiving both your letters, & for which I am much obliged to you. Though I am sorry to observe you do not speak more decidedly on your intended junction with your brother delegates: if it depends on our removal to Philad.a some time must necessarily elapse, as there is but little hopes that such an event will take effect with a full representation of the Southern States: N. Carolina, Delaware & Georgia are still absent & we do not know when they will appear; it seems as if many of the States had forgot the relation in which they stood to the Union as well as to foreign powers. Congress have done very little since their last meeting: indeed with so few States it is out of their power to do any thing of material consequence.

They have been lately alarmed at the conduct of our sister Jersey

in consequence of a resolution passed by the House of Delegates of that State rejecting a requisition of 1785 & declaring they would neither consent to this or any other requisition unless the 5 pC. Impost is adopted: the apprehensions of Congress in consequence of this abdication of Jersey induced them to send a Commee to Trenton to remonstrate to them on the fatal consequences that must result from their adherence to their resolution

A few days ago the Commee consisting of Mr. Pinkney Mr. Graham & myself had an audience, & the Assembly were polite enough to rescind the resolution: - They are however still very much dispatisfied & complain heavily of the injuries they suffer from imposts laid by N. York on the one hand & Pennsylvania on the other

They alledge that they pay as much to these States by way of commerce as their proportion of the specie part of the requisition

would amount to; some of them wish for annihilation & that E. Jersey might be joined to N. York & W. Jersey to Pensylvany.

Our foreign affairs are much in the same situation as when you left us: Mr. Adams has done nothing with the British Ministry; and Mr. Jay has done about as much with Mr. Gardoqui:— The Commrs. in Europe have dispatched Mr. Barclay. Mr. Franks, Mr. Lamb & a Mr. Randal to negotiate with the Barbary powers, & we understand that they have actually arrived at the Court of the Emperor of Morocco: as they are authorized to give only 80,000 dolls. to the most greedy of the world four sovereigns; which is a little better than 40 or 50 Marks a man, I think there is every reason in the world to suppose that some of the dramatis personæ will get incarcerated: I think it is probable that these people will send

look upon the offer as an insult & that we are laughing at them.

There has been a great agetation in Jersey & this State for paper money It is lost for the moment in Jersey & to 5 in the Council: the fate of it is suspended here but I believe it will pass in the affirmative before the session breaks: & with a tender to it:- the Antients were more candid than we are, they contended directly for an abolition of debts, in so many words while we politicly ask for the same thing in the soft & specious language of Paper money.-

Your friends here are all well Mr Munro is lately married to Miss Eliza. Ikatright: many other copulative conjunctions are talked of: Mr King is about being married to Miss Alsop: they say that Mr Hindman is thinking about some tender connections: in short we seem as if we had all

yor into Calypsos Island: — The Stable
Mr. Lee is not intirely an unconcerned
spectator among all this good business;
he has been assiduous at the Sycamore
& at Mrs Livingstons; various rumors
have circulated in consequence of the
Doctors maneuvres: all parties agree
that a storm is gathering but whether it
will ultimately burst on Miss Allidey Livingston or
Esther Hastings is yet in the womb of
fate: if I was to give my own opinion
on so intricate a question, (& forced to bett on the occasion)
I should stake
the Sycamore against the field.] I shall
be extremely obliged by a continuance
of yor favors, and will give you
from time such occurrences as I
think may be worth yor notice:

from yr. affect. Fd
& Most Obt. Servt.

Turn over Willm Gilmore.

Since writing above I understand that Georgia & Rhode Island, have both passed the 5 p.C.r Impost; the Legislature of N. York are now sitting: the impost is before them, but it is matter of great doubt whether it will go through: if they should passes it, it will become effectual.

I shall attend particularly to what you say respecting the Post Office the Ordinance is ready to be produced when there are a sufficient number of States collected.

It being a doubt whether a Member out of Congress & before he has taken his seat is exempted from Postage: I have pro majori cautela franked this

H.G.

24.

There are great thoughts among some of the principal members in Congress to recommend a Convention of the States for the purpose of amending the confederation, which it is said is perfectly inefficient: A resolution to this effect is now before Congress, brought forward by Pinkney. ——

Wm Grayson

W Grayson

1786 (No 407)

2 Letters

1 Aug 6,

9604

£110

Mrs Lee of Belvoir. Newyork Feb.y 23.d 1786

Please to pay to Henry Lee jun.r Esq.r or order, one hundred & ten pounds curr.y being the principal & interest of money & linen received from me in may 1781. for which, the payment of this note shall be your full discharge

Arthur Lee

Thomas Lee Esq.r of Belvoir

Please to pay to Henry Lee jun.r Esq.r or order twenty four pounds curr.y being the balance due to me for a ~~gold watch & a~~ piece of silk, after deducting what you won at Shrewsbury a pair of nankeen breeches. Arthur Lee

Newyork Feb.y 23.d 1786

1786
Feb.y 23.

Arthur Lee esq.r to
Henry Lee — Debtr

To his draft of this date on Arthur Lee of Belvoir —	110 " 0 " 0
To D.o on Thomas Lee —	24 " 0 " 0
	134 " 0 " 0
87.	
92. To cash — £ 91 — —	21 - 0 - 0
	155 " 0 " 0

April 1st

1789 To interest on 134 from 23.d Feb.y 86 to this date 3 years & 1 month —	20 - 13 " 2
	£ 175 " 13 " 0
By cash from Thos.r Lee the above date —	92 " 0 " 0
	83 " 13 " 0
To interest from 1st April 89 to this date 3 years & 9 months —	7 " 18
	£ 91 " 11 " 0

E. E.

Henry Lee

1793

a/c H Lee

A Lee

Dear Sir

you will very much oblige me by the
loan for a few days of 50. Dollrs. - If you can
spare them be so kind as send by the bearer
.

Jas Monroe

Feby. 26. 1786 Lent Mr. Monroe forty eight
Dollars R. Lee Feb 26. 1786

M

James Monroe's
Letter Feby. 26. 1780
to borrow 48 dollars

Senator Monroes
Letter to borrow
O O odd dollars

Jas Monroe
Feb 26th 1780

Mr Saunders
Richmond Virginia

(8°405) New York 21st March 1786.

Dear Sir

It was with the utmost pleasure that I recd yesterday your much esteemed favour 3d. Dec.r by Colonel Henry Lee with whom I had several conversations about your health, & was sincerely happy to hear that you had recover'd greatly.

Believe me I wish you heartily this & every other prosperety, as one who feels the civilities recd from you, & who gladly entertains a particular attachment to so worthy a charecter.

I am greatly oblige to you for your very polite expressions in regard to health & destiny. The first is certainly grown much better than cou'd be expected, for I find myself quite another man, & all my wishes

& steps are wholy directed to be so usefull to both Countries as to joyn them happily in a lasting peace. It may probably be upon the Carpett soon, & I could wish to see you particularly in Congress whenever any part of it should come before it.

May therefore God bless you with full strength to attend it without inconviniency will be my constant wish, & you would add a particular obligation to me. I want nothing but what in my opinion is of the utmost benefitt to this Country.

Luckly I have just recd an arrove of 25. Spanish pounds of the best Bark from the Havana. The Intendant tells me he had it from the Vice-Roy of Santa Fee, & that he doubts not of its being good. Accept it therefore my good friend & should you be in need of using it, may it answer your

expectation will be my sincere desire.

I send the box as it come from the Havana to my worthy Freind your Brother with this letter in order to be forwarded to you & I hope you will when at leisure let me Know of your health, commanding freely

Dear Sir

Your Sincere Freind
& most obed.t Serv.t
James Yardoqui

Hon.ble Richard Henry Lee Esq.r

(N° 405)

James Gardoqui
Letter 21 March 1786
with a present of
Jesuits Bark.

2 Letters
~~(No. 74)~~

~~No. 74~~

My dear Sir, Chantilly 28 March 1786

I fully intended to have been at Court to day in hopes of having the pleasure to see you there; but I am prevented by indisposition rendering it quite unsafe to be in the air long — Lately I received a Letter from Mr. Rose concerning a Suit of one Clanahan against Col. Corbin - Mr. Rose states the Bill in Chancery, brought forward by Col. Corbin & renewed since his death by his Exr. - as being dismissed therefore that the judgement of ... ... at Common Law by Clanahan, for 30 odd pounds as now to be paid - and he informs me in his Letter that on speaking with you about it, you advised him to me — The affair was Thus - Clanahan was Overseer, for Col. Corbin in Hanover and did so egregiously mismanage his Crop that about 8 Tons of one small Crop were refused at the Inspection as was fully proved in Court by the Neglect of the Overseer who in our Name

is expressly bound by Act of Assembly to make good
the Loss — But instead of doing this, Clanahan
sued Col.o Corbin for a ballance of 20 odd pounds
that he claimed as having paid for him — All this
it was clearly proved in Court but the Tob.o mention-
ed was lost by his mismanagement. The Jury
most perversely, to the astonishment of the Court
& the Bystanders brought in a Verdict of more
than £30 for the Overseer — Col.o Corbin appealed
to Chancery & the Suit was renewed since his
death by the Executors, now is it dismissed, as
Mr.r Rose suggests, but remains now on the
docket to be prosecuted, if you choose —
I am too unwell to write much, but if your
time permitted you to give us the pleasure
of your company here this evening, we can
talk fully on the subject, by which means
you may have a clearer knowledge of the
affair — I hope you left Mr.r Tunbridge

and the little ones well —

Affectionately yours

Richard Thompson

Henry Lee Junr. to General Washington.

New York, 21st April, '86.

My dear General,

Your very polite reply to my two letters reached me a few days past. It is impossible for my mind, thoroughly impressed with testimonials of your friendship, when that friendship operated both to my honor and happiness, to ascribe any act of yours in which I am interested to disregard or neglect.

My chief object in my correspondence with you was to manifest the unabated respect which continues to govern my feelings, when change of situation and circumstances forbid the derivation of my attachment from any principles but those bottomed on the purest and warmest respect. Then, my dear Sir, let me hope that you will not consider it as due or expected that you should be regular in your replies, but rather be governed by inclination and leisure, otherwise I shall be forced, from the same feelings which induced me to commence a correspondence so truly agreeable, to decline the continuance of it. Your communications with respect to the progress of our internal navigation has given to me and our countrymen here the highest satisfaction; for certainly no event comprehends more fully the strength and future consequence of our particular country than the cementing to the interest of Virginia by the strong tie of commerce the Western world. This I believe will take place effectually, if the Potomac and James River Companies succeed in their exertions before the navigation of the Mississippi becomes free to the western emigrants. I have my doubts whether good policy does not dictate forcibly every measure which tends to delay to distant time the free use of that river. It is very certain that the Spanish Court are in no temper for admitting it at present, in any degree; nor will they even consent to it as long as they retain in subjection their American Colonies.

I have taken the liberty to shew in some private circles your observations with respect to the present prospect of our federal affairs, and I flatter myself the justice and decision of your remarks will aid the friends to the Union in this city in their exertions to incline the Assembly of this State to adopt the revenue system asked for by Congress, and at this period essential to the existence of the Union.

The lower House have passed the impost fettered with conditions which render it inadmissible by Congress. I hope the Senate will amend it, and that at length we shall be possessed of some permanent and adequate fund for the discharge of our foreign debt.

We have no accounts by the packet of the progress of our negotiation with the Barbary powers, nor have we much reason to hope for a tolerable termination of their mission. The British Cabinet evidence whenever they can their zeal to destroy our commerce, and they certainly will succeed in their favorite plan, unless the States give adequate powers to Congress to counteract by commercial regulations the injuries imposed on our trade.

I enclose the late Gazette, a letter from England for you, and the papers you require.

Please to present me to your lady and accept my best wishes for your health and happiness.

With the most respectful attachment, I am, &c.,

Henry Lee, Jun.

I enclose a plan for the government of Militia, which does great honor to its author.

Dear Sir

London Apr. 22. 1786

In your letter of October the 29th you desired me to send you one of the new lamps. I tried at every probable place in Paris, and could not get a tolerable one. I have been glad of it since I came here, as I find them much better made here. I now deliver one with this letter into the hands of mr Pelham Sharpe, a merchant from Virginia settled here, who promises to send it to you, with one for mr C. Thomson. I shall be pleased to accept from me. it is now found that they may be used with almost any oil.

I expect to leave this place in about three days. our public letters joint & separate will inform you what has been done, and what could not be done here. with respect to a commercial treaty with this country be assured that the government not only has it not in contemplation at present to make any, but that they do not conceive that any circumstances will arise which shall render it expedient for them to have any political connection with us. ~~them~~. they think we shall be glad of their commerce on their own terms. there is no party in our favor here, either in power, or out of power. even the opposition concur with the ministry & the nation in this. I can scarcely consider as a party the Marquis of Lansdowne, and a half dozen characters about him, such as Dr Price &c. who are impressed with the utility of a friendly connection with us. the former does not venture this sentiment in parliament, and the latter are not in situations to be heard. the Marquis of Lansdowne spoke to me affectionately of your brother, Genl Lee and desired his respects to him, which I beg leave to communicate through you. were he to come into the ministry (of which there is not the most distant prospect

H Lee esq

prospect) he must adopt the king's system, or go out again as he did before, for daring to depart from it. when we see that through all the changes of ministry which have taken place during the present reign, there has never been a change of system with respect to America, we can not reasonably doubt that this is the system of the king himself. his obstinacy of character we know, his hostility we have known, and it is embittered by ill success. if ever this nation, during his life, enters into arrangements with us, it must be in consequence of events of which they do not at present see a possibility. the object of the present ministry is to buoy up the nation with flattering calculations of their present prosperity, and to make them believe they are better without us than with us. this they seriously believe for what is it men cannot be made to believe! I dined the other day in a company of the ministerial party. a General Burke sat next to me, a Scotchman & ministerialist. he introduced the subject of American affairs, and in the course of the conversation told me that were America to petition parliament to be again received on their former footing, the petition would be very generally rejected. he was serious in this, & I think it was the sentiment of the company, and is their sentiment perhaps of the nation. in this they are wise, but for a foolish reason. they think they lost more by suffering us to participate of their commercial privileges at home & abroad, than they lose by our political severance. the true reason however why such an application should be rejected is that in a very short time we should oblige them to add another hundred millions to their debt in unsuccessful attempts to retrain the subjection offered to them. they are at present in a frenzy, and will not be recovered from it till they shall have leaped the precipice they are now so

so baldly advancing to writing from England, I write you nothing but English news. the Continent at present furnishes nothing interesting. I shall hope the favor of your letters at times. the proceedings & views of congress, of the assemblies, the opinions and dispositions of our people in general, which in governments like ours must be the foundation of measures, will always be interesting to me, as will whatever respects your own health & happiness, being with great esteem Dear Sir

Your most obedient

and most humble servant

Th: Jefferson

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The following document has a late endorsement: "Printed in *Writings of James Monroe*, Vol. I, p. 129"

Monroe, James, *The Writings of James Monroe, including a collection of his public and private papers and correspondence now for the first time printed* (7 vols.; New York and London: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1898-1903)

Also fully transcribed in Richard Henry Lee [III], *Memoir of the Life of Richard Henry Lee and his Correspondence* (2 vols.; Philadelphia: 1825), II, 224-225.

New York May 2d. 1788. 215

Dear Sir

I have no excuse for having been so indifferent a correspondent except that I had nothing to communicate to you & I persuaded that of this you were apprised by yr. brother & Col°. Pen. lately however we have rec'd. dispatches from Mr. adams of a very interesting nature. he presented sometime abt. november last a memorial to the ministry requiring a delivery of the posts & compensation for the infraction of the treaty respecting the negroes, to which he rec'd for answer "that it was unquestionably true that by the 7th article the posts shod. have been evacuated. but that by the 4th & 5th that these shod. be no impediment in the way of the recovery of British debts - that these articles had been violated by almost every State in the confederacy - 2dly. that most flagrantly violates all the acts of the several States wh. militate agst. the treaty, with great precision & finally states that it wod. be folly for one party to carry its engagements into effect while the other neglected theirs - that provided the U.S. wod. comply on their part the thing wod. on his" this I think is the amt. of the dispatch from Mr. adams from wh. the injunction of

money is remov'd so that you may be under no restr.
in yr. communications on the subject. we shall re.
it to the Executive for the information of the Legis.
-ture. we have lately been much perplex'd by an ap
position from Connecticut for ordering persons claim'd
westward 120 miles of the Penn.a line by Wh. she obtains a re
by implication to 120. miles. we have been inform'd
that said Penn.a are on the point of variance with re
-spect to Wyoming and that this land is necessary to sat
-isfy the Susquehannah & Delaware companies of Con.
-necticut who create this mischief, whereby peace
will be restor'd to the Union. we are also apprs'd
that unless we accept this opinion Connecticut will
open an office for the whole disclaim'd land
to the Mississippi for sale. a proposition has been
made respecting to the U.S. Whatever they have a
gain'd under the opinion of Judges, & negativ'd
one confirming the decree of Trenton or
ther requiring that Connecticut should relinquish
claim to Penn.a as their indeed met with the
same fate, the latter as connected with the former
wh. being negativ'd gave a more pointed impl
cation in favour of Connecticut. the suit now
stands, to day it will be taken up again & I suppo
will be pass'd. when shall we move the plea

-sure of seeing you here! you have in a very
high degree the friendship & good wishes of our
family - Miss Hortright & Mrs Monroe desire
to be most respectfully remembered to you.
I shall always be happy to hear from you
& am sincerely yr. friend & servant
Jas Monroe

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J. Munroe

In Congress June 2 1786.

Resolved That the Commissioners of the Board of Treasury do take the most effectual measures to have the Accounts of the late Committee of Commerce and of the Commercial Committee settled without delay.

(signed) Charles Thomson
Secretary

Sir, Chantilly in Virginia June 20. 1786

The enclosed papers that I have the honor of transmitting to your Excellency for the consideration of Congress I have but now received altho they are dated in the last year.

I am perfectly satisfied that this demand of Jn.o B Schweighauser will be found, on due enquiry, to be right; and that this worthy Gentleman who has been long injuriously baffled of his honest demand plainly against the will of Congress, will now be fully paid by the effectual measures that Congress in their wisdom and justice shall direct. I have the honor to be, with sentiments of the most perfect respect & esteem, Sir, your Excellencies most obedient and very humble Servant.

Richard Henry Lee.

Henry Lee Jr. to General Washington.

New York, July 8th 1786.

My dear General,

I had the honor of your letter four days past, and should have sooner replied, but waited in the expectation of learning something about the package you enquire after. The letter from Sir Arthur Young came in the packet, but was not accompanied by anything else. The British Consul here tells me it is not customary to send packages of any sort by the packets, as they sail from Falmouth or Portsmouth 300 miles from London, but that they come in vessels directly from London. Perhaps the letter is only meant as a letter of advice, and that its copy will arrive in Potomac with the books, though it is strange how Mr. Adams could think of sending the letter via New York. Unaccountable as the procedure appears, I hope no loss may accrue, as Mr. Young's works are the most valuable production of the sort extant. Solicitous to gather all useful knowledge respecting farms and farming, I sought this author out, on my arrival here; I could only obtain his tour through Ireland, which I take the liberty to transmit to you now by favor of Doctor Griffith. Before my return, it is very probable you may receive the whole of the author's work, and these two volumes will in the mean time afford you an opportunity of putting into practice Mr. Young's system of culture.

If you should be in want of a new set of China, it is in my power to procure a very genteel set, table and tea. What renders this china doubly valuable and handsome is the order of the eagle engraved on it, in honor of the Cincinnati. It has upwards of 306 pieces, and is offered at the prime cost, 150 dollars.

Your reasoning on the navigation of the Mississippi is perfectly conformable to the prevalent doctrine on that subject in Congress. We are very solicitous to form a treaty with Spain for commercial purposes;

indeed, no nation in Europe can give us conditions so advantageous to our trade as that kingdom. The carrying business they are like ourselves in, and this common source of difficulty in adjusting commercial treaties between other nations does not apply to America and Spain. But, my dear General, I do not think you go far enough. Rather than defer longer the benefits of a free liberal system of trade with Spain, why not agree to the occlusion of the Mississippi? This occlusion will not, cannot exist longer than the infancy of the Western emigrants; therefore to those people what is now done cannot be important: to the Atlantic States it is highly important, for we have no prospect of bringing to conclusion our negotiations with the Court of Madrid, but by yielding the navigation of the Mississippi. Their minister here is under positive instructions on that point; in all other arrangements the Spanish monarch will give to the States testimony of his regard and friendship, and I verily believe that if the above difficulty could be removed, we should soon experience the advantages which would flow from a connection with Spain.

Mrs. Lee returns her most respectful compliments to the ladies of Mount Vernon, and repeats, through me, an offer she before made of executing any commands which Mrs. Washington may please to favor her with.

I beg my return of esteem to Mrs. Washington, and am, with unalterable attachment and respect, yours,

Henry Lee Junr.

(P 406)

Spring Gardens
London 14th Sept. 1786

Sir,

Tho' I have not the Honour of personally knowing you, the Benevolence of your Character emboldens me to trouble you with a few Lines, to solicit your Power and Influence with the Assembly of the States, in Behalf of my Infant Son whose Case is truly hard. I will not trouble you with a long detail, but refer you to the Memorial and Petition presented by me and the two Gentlemen who are Guardians to my Children, and which (through the Humanity and Goodness of General Washington) was laid before the Assembly of the States in 1784.

From the tender age of my Son it was impossible for him to do any Act inimical to the Country; and surely the Property of an Infant should always be held sacred and strongly protected by the Laws, and all good People. My Son has likewise an additional Claim (if any other could be wanting) by being descended from a Native of Virginia as his Great Grandfather was actually born there.

I am sure it will be quite unnecessary for me to say any more to a Person of your Feelings to induce you to support our just Claims and to plead my

Excuse for troubling you with this Letter.

I have the Honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient humble servant

Henry Bristow

To The Honble
Richard Henry Lee Esqr

No. 18.

To

The Hon.ble Rich.d Henry Lee Esq.r

Virginia.

1/9/1786

1786

Thos Barclay
Sept. 14th 86
(Private)

(Private Letter to Hon Gen Lee)

Henry Lee Jr to General Washington.

about 1st Oct, 1786.

Dear General,

I have not written to you for a long time, having nothing important or agreable to communicate. Nor have I now any thing agreable but, alas! the reverse.

The commotions, which have for some time past distracted the two eastern states, have risen in Massachusetts to an alarming height. In New Hampshire, the firmness of their President, the late Genl Sullivan, has dissipated the troubles in that state. I enclose a full narration of his decided conduct, & the effects which it produced. But affairs are in a very different situation in Massachusetts. After various insults to government, by stopping the courts of justice &c. the insurgents have in a very formidable shape, taken possession of the town of Springfield, at which place the supreme court was sitting. The friends of the to govern- ment arrayed under the militia General of the district, Shephard, in support of the court; but their exertions were not effectual. The court removed, and broke up; the insurgents continue possessed of the town, and General Shephard has retired to the United States arsenal, one mile from Springfield. This arsenal contains a very important share of our munitions of War. Congress have sent their Secretary of this department, General Knox, to take the best measures in his power, in concert with government, for the safety of the arsenal. What renders the conduct of the insurgents more alarming is, that they behave with decency, and manage with system; they are encamped, and regularly supplied with provisions by their friends, and have

lately given order to the delegates in assembly from their particular
town not to attend the meeting of the Legislature.

It must give you pleasure to hear, in this very
distressing scene, the late officers and soldiers are on the side of govern-
ment, unanimously. The insurgents, it is said, are conducted by a
Captain of the late army, who continued but a small period in service,
and possesses a very reputable character.

This event produces much suggestion, as to its
causes. Some attribute it to the weight of taxes, and the decay of
commerce, which has produced universal idleness; others, to British
councils; the vicinity of Vermont, and the fondness for novelty, which always
has, and ever will possess, more or less influence in man. The next
accounts will, I hope, produce favorable intelligence, but present
appearances do not justify this hope.

Has your china arrived, and does it please Mrs.
Washington? Be pleased to present my best respects to her, and accept
the repetition of my unceasing regard, with which,

I have the honor to be Yr. &c.

Henry Lee Jr.

my dear Sir.

, Rosegill 25 Dec. 1786.

The ladies I take it no compliss. very much approve of your new mode of immortalizing ourselves, especially, as in this task you admit them to bear their full share with you. on their part, no doubt, they will take care that there shall be no relaxation — I am sorry to hear, you are not married; as your taste, & judgement are good, I am sure, you will be happy in your choice, and gloriously admire to this great end, immortality; the sooner, for you have not much time to lose) you can persuade some fair one to co-operate, the better.

The Magician, as you properly call him, has not taken any steps to display his artifices: whether he found the attempt to be unpermitted him; whether he could not get any member to accept the Millers hundred, or whether he really had no intention of going into public business this winter, I cannot determine; but certain it is, he has been totally quiescent, and whatever mischief or wickedness he might have meditated, none has as yet been perpetrated: he still stands high in popular ground, being appointed one of the Delegates to meet others at Philadelphia for the purpose of reforming the federal Constitution.

The Pontextum reipublicæ has been fully explained

upon; is held in esteem, and is eloquent.

I received a letter from our friend Cobbett the other day, inclosing a report which is withdrawn, and never by the bye, was to appear, what I have long known, our friend is to bankruptcy: when he got rid of his egotism, and a little vanity, natural to men of his age, and his parts, having an extremely good understanding, with much good nature, he will be of consequence: and having industry and laudable ambition may benefit his country and himself.

You have engraved on for our chief Magistrate a line of active conduct, and given him an efficiency that I fear the constitution has not: by that, he is a creature of inanity: he ought to have power to do, what you have considered as incumbent on one in his department; but, as he cannot coerce, as he cannot deprive, as he cannot prevent; as he can only be, vigilant, and dare not expose, what he may detect; what is he? as Governor, but a vox et praeterea nihil — arms and ammunition he has a right to take care of, but, alas! these are none: in fact he has nothing to do; to repose on down in a castle of indolence, were it his passion, might be his sole employment.

I never could be informed of the causes of the disturbances in the eastern States, whether it were only superficial, or whether it were founded in concealed deep laid treasonable designs against their present constitution, and as it seemed to me it appeared to proceed from a great body of discontent, that expressed itself in a disorderly and tumultuous manner without any fixed purpose of altering the government: the people of that country can neither bear the gentle restraint of a supreme external power, nor the absolute liberty of a self controlled, and independant commonwealth — How serious will it be ever to draw the cords of connection closer with their people, than at present? to commit, to any other power than our legislature, the regulation of our commerce? unless we had a voice upon every occasion in laying it proportion what we are rated to contribute to the federal treasury, even then I should have my apprehension of some hasty measures, if we should be in the minority, touching the transport of our tobacco: it is now carried to Europe on as low terms, and as safe, as it ever has or ever will be: this consideration apart and order established in

I never could be informed of the causes of the disturbances in the eastern States, whether it were only superficial, or whether it were founded in concealed deep laid treasonable designs against their present constitution, and as it seemed to me it appeared to proceed from a great body of discontent, that expressed itself in a disorderly and tumultuous manner without any fixed purpose of altering the government: the people of that country can neither bear the gentle restraint of a supreme external power, nor the absolute liberty of a self controlled, and independant commonwealth — How serious will it be ever to draw the cords of connection closer with their people, than at present? to commit, to any other power than our legislature, the regulation of our commerce? unless we had a voice upon every occasion in laying it proportion what we are rated to contribute to the federal treasury, even then I should have my apprehension of some hasty measures, if we should be in the minority, touching the transport of our tobacco: it is now carried to Europe on as low terms, and as safe, as it ever has or ever will be: this consideration apart and order established in

the Eastern States, promoted your language, our sovereign-
power, their efficiency, and enlargement of powers that
could secure to it external dignity with that endearing
our freedom; and external consideration without trench-
-ing upon too much our statical independance. I know
not whether these ideas may meet yours; if they do, I shall
have an higher opinion of their being just and proper ones.

Your letter found me engaged in Mr. Hastings's im-
-peachment: appearances are against him; the day of trial
which seems to be approaching, when his Vindication
and his encomiasts declarations will be laid before, and
furnished. George Hardinge has distinguished himself great-
-ly in their debates; I am very much mistaking, if he be
not one of the first orators in that house. He is at home
there, Hardinge is not yet familiar in his situation; when
he once finds himself at his ease, I should suppose, as
an Orator, he will be superior to any man in that
house, except Mr. Pitt, who astonishes the world, and
who, all agree, surpasses the most sanguine belief,
that ever fell to the share of any individual. Mrs. Boyne &
the ladies of Hospital desire me to present their compliments to
my father and you. I am, dear Sir, yours most affectionately, Charles Lee.

Mr. Morris

P.S. I have never received a letter from you

Expenditures on Old Accounts in 1785 ——— dlls. 69 386.59

Estimate for 1786

Presidents household	12203.12
Congress	12953.05
Treasury department	91760.60
Foreign affairs	33610.60
War department	4[illegible]830.
Paymaster Genl. for Army Accts.	6888.
Pensions & Annuities	3106.86
Total Expenditure	dlls. 165,352.
Survey of Western La[illegible]	8.953

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Your Memorialists being Commissioners of the Board of Treasury under the late Congress beg leave to approach the H. of R. U.S. [illegible] not without concern that your Memorialists [illegible] attention of the House of Representatives

That a Printer who is supposed to act by the authority of the House or by the permission of the House has published as the proceedings in it — a high & unmerited imputation on the conduct of your Memorialists. [illegible]. The supposed authority of his Paper, renders it the source from which all the Papers, thro the U.S. derive information of what passes in the House of Representatives. Had the Printer misrepresented those proceedings to the world as well as your Memorialist must presume, that in justice to the public, to the House & to your Memorialists he would have been ordered to rectify his error, or punished as a libeller of the House. As this has not been done the public must suppose it true, under the influence of the supposed veracity & privilege of the Printer — a most unmerited imputation, as well against the late Congress as against the Memorialists has been circulated thro the U.S.

The exceptions your Memorialists allude to are in the paper published by Francis Childs on the 21st inst. as follows —— He — meaning a member of the House in debate — drew a comparison between the conduct of the late Financier & the Board of Treasury & said, "that the parallel was entirely to the advantage of the former in every point of view. Under the administration of that man public business had been done with a simplicity, accuracy & dispatch which saved our finances from dissipation — immense savings had been made in all the departments, civil & military, over which he had had any controul, and

which before had been in such a state of destruction. Under the Administration of the late Commissioners, the Revenues had been in a state of darkness & confusion. Uncertainty, indecision & weakness appeard in all their transactions — he spoke from experience — The difficulties & delays he had met with in doing business with Board convinced him that there was some great defect in their formation which was incurable!!

Comparisons Sir, are more than odious if not founded in truth, and this is calculated to deceive the public in every point. Your Memorialists would with confidence meet a comparison of their Administration with that which preceded it, founded upon an examination into facts and the records deposited in the Books of the Treasury. They can safely defy the severest scrutiny into — the integrity of their conduct — the uninterrupted harmony that has prevaild among them — the clear & uniform mode of proceeding — & the dispatch of business which was accumulated on them by the confidence of Congress beyond all former example. That Congress, Sir, would surely have been highly criminal in confirming the system & appointing the Commissioners after long experience of both — if the system had been radically defective & the Administration of it dark, confused, dilatory & weak. Experience Sir, is alledged to support this charge. To this decision they chearfully submit, presuming that the experience of three successive Congress, will outweigh that of any Individual

Your Memorialists, Sir, have never speculated on their own transactions — nor attempted to make powerful friends by profitable Contracts They have not placed the public money in

private hands, but in the public treasury — Thus made the Acts of Congress the invariable guide of their conduct.

Your Memorialists, Sir, found the Treasury impoverished; & it is a matter of notoriety how poorly it has been supplied thro the whole course of their Administration. It must therefore occur to every mind that the utmost oeconomy & retrenchment must have been employd to make such Finances as support government & maintain any degree of credit. That credit was supported, the late Loan in Holland, on the same terms as before, is an unquestionable proof.

When your Memorialists commenced their administration, they found numerous & most important Accounts — of long standing & accumulated issues of money — unsettled in every branch of the preceding Administration. The vast number & magnitude of these Accounts which have since been finally closed, appear from the records of the several offices & might alone have caused their administration from the charge of delay & indecision. Your Memorialists found also that many millions of the public money had been advanced on account. so far back as the year 1776. under the shadow of Secret & Commercial Committees for which the Accounts had not been settled. It has been their endeavor to bring these Accounts to settlement — but the confusion in which they had been involved and the impositions which had been in some cases practised upon the Supreme Power to obtain orders for payment of pretended Balances has rendered such settlements an herculean labor, & the retrieval of public property & money

who apparently detaind unjustly to a vast amount
is for these reasons extremely precarious. Of these
Accounts after so long a time & a public call upon the
persons accountable, two only ~~of those Accounts~~, one
from New hampshire & the other from Connecticut
have been stated & the Board for their final considera-
tion.

Your memorialists must also appeal to the
Journals of Congress against the charge of uncer-
tainty, indecision & weakness in their Administra-
tion. Those Journals abound with References
to their Board Reports from it. Two hundred
reports & some of them of great length do not
shew a defect in the dispatch of business

After two years experience of the system
& of its Administration — Congress unanimously
confirmd the one & continued the other. It is not
presumption to repeat that Congress were the best
Judges both of the efficacy of the system &
the adequacy of the Administration. Their con-
firmation therefore of both, without one dis-
sentient voice is their best eulogium

Your Memorialists, Sir, are deeply affected
at having been obliged to give the House of
Representatives so much trouble, upon a sub-
ject so ungracious. But they rely upon the
magnanimity of its Members for their in-
dulgence; more especially as your Memori-
alists were urged to it, by a sacred sense of
duty — to truth, to the Public & to themselves.

"That each State retains its sovereignty freedom & Independance & every power jurisdiction & right which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated to the U. S. in Congress assembled."

In what part of the Confederation is this power jurisdiction, or right expressly delegated to Congress? Certainly in none. What could prevail upon Congress to offer such an insult to the Sovereignty & jurisdiction of one of the States in the Union as even to receive this, & other more indecent Petitions from Individuals, denying the jurisdiction & insulting the authority, & even libelling by the grossest falsehood the Assembly of Virginia.

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But this was not enough. These libels were heard with so much respect as to be sent to a Committee; as if Congress were pleased with this new fangled doctrine, & far from spurning the proffered Usurpation, were flattered with the offerings from the most temperate hands. What judgment will the world form of a Committee, that could attempt to gloss over & substantiate a claim, refutable & refuted by the very declarations, in its support, by reporting that the forms of Office & the Seals only were wanting, that they had a title which it was worthy of Congress to receive as a cession, after the great expence they had incurred & demanded compensation.

persons who
to spend their money in the service of their
own. But could the Committee of
for themselves to be so grossly
imposed upon, as to believe that
soliciting a Grant could cost
twenty thousand pounds sterl.g
when the price to be given for
it was ten thousand only. Had
they consulted any person of the
smallest knowledge in such transactions, they would have known
nothing is paid till the Seal. are
affixed, unless the Petitioner chuses
to have Copies of the proceedings
from the different departments, for
which a few Guineas more or less
according to the size of them, are the regulated &c.
exorbitance there must have been
credulity or the connivance of

(a) and upon what possible principle of justice or impartiality could these Gentlemen propose to compensate Messrs. Wharton & Trent for their expences in endeavoring to obtain a grant of these Lands from the Crown of England, & yet refuse any compensation to Virginia for conquering & defending so valuable a part as the Illinois Country? If the expence of the one part deserved compensation; surely that of the other, which had been collected by Congress, could not merit less.

It is hereby necessary to observe that the same Committee reported against accepting the cession of Virginia, wh has granted against the acceptance of these Land-mongers, & appropriated to the use of the U.S. The territory Committee therefore recommended a cession from Virginia "free from any conditions whatsoever"

much stress has been laid upon the expence incurred by the Company in endeavoring to obtain this grant from the Crown of G. Britain; & this Committee sincerely recommend a compensation for it, — amounting to 20000 £ Now had Grant alleged this expence been really incurred, what have Congress to do with making compensation? Peril incurred at their own risque & for their advantage; & who ever yet heard of compensation made

It is but just that when matters of so great consequence as the happyness of Nations is to be determined upon, they should be considered coolly & dispassionately before the ultimatum should be fixed upon. I shant pretend to give an opinion upon the violent resolutions of a certain State with respect to the right of navigation of the River Mississipi, but I will lay before the impartial the advantages that will follow to the United States from a friendly connection with Spain, & lett them point out if that Kingdom will receive any compensation for them.

Spain in her present state is by far the greatest consumer of all the Powers, for she is not only a consumer in Europe but in her great american Dominions.

The articles of codfish, & Fraym ryl

imported from England into that kingdom is beyond conception, but it is an undoubted truth that from 4. to 5. millions of Dollars center annualy into England from that branch, & that it employs from 3. to 6000 Seamen.

To the above is ought to be added the second freights made by the vessells employd which is of the utmost consequence.

I have known many years before the Revolution when a single house in Spain has recd 100000. quin.ls of codfish pr annum besides Train oyl Salmon, Pickled fish &c. from the New England States. Judge then of the quantity that must have gone to all the rest of Spain.

That this fish is much superior to the English no one can doubt, for it always commands at least a Dollar more pr quin.l upon an average.

England is very cautious that should the U.S. have the least encouragement in Spain their fisheries must decline, as the local situation & other advantages are far superior to those of Newfoundland.

The States of New York Pensilvania & N Jersey produce wheat, corn, & other grains, & it is well known that great quantities of those & flour are constantly shipped for Spain besides Bees wax staves &c.

Maryland exports quantity of flour to Spain with the additional article of Rice which is almost weekly shipping to Spain, as well as from South Carolina & Indigo is also free in that kingdom.

Altho' Foreign Tabacco is strictly prohibited in Spain & no Nation allowed to bring it, yet the U. S. have been indulged to the great surprize of all Nations, & their tabacco is admited into the Bay of Cadiz & the ports of Bilbao & St Sebastian, so that Virginia, Maryland & the Carolinas partake of this advantage also.

The Carolinas especialy North Carolina abounds with Naval Stores which are finely admired in Spain & might be made a most important branch if it could be obtained that the court of Spain should provide their Navy from thence.

Lett every ympartial who reviews the above & considers well that Spain makes her returns in cash & not in gauzes & Jewellery as all other Nations do, tell me sincerely whether the Interest of the U. S. with Spain is either supposed or partial to one part of the confederacy as it is stated in the Resolutions hinted.

Spain is pressingly carressed by all the great powers on acct of her ymmence rich commercial connections as a consumer, & will at her pleasure garrantee not only all her dominions but even that neither the U. S. nor any other Nation but her own subjects shall navigate the Mississippi; for every European knows that the right of navigating it from the limits wherein the two shores belong to Spain downwards, is her own solely by all the rights of Nations, & that the Treaty made between England & the U. S. in that respect could be but a conditional one for in case the fatte of war should have altered from the possessor which was Spain

when that Treaty took place.

Whoever gives that Treaty another sense pays but a poor compliment to the contracting parties as he must deduce it was malicious.

The River Tagus in Spain has its source in the very center of the Kingdom, & after watering the best parts of it goes into Portugal & enters into the Ocean at Lisbon. How laughable it would appear in Europe if Spain was to pretend to carry on a navigation thro' Portugal notwithstanding there has been in former times.

Memorandum

of

Mr. de Garidvgis

Minister from

Spain touching

the Navigation

of the Mississippi

1.

1776

Papers Copies of Willing Morris & Co Accounts
dated 24th Decr. 1776. Copy of a Letter to J. D.
Schweighauser not signd, but pursuant to
from the Secret Comtee dated 28 Jany 1776. The
subject of this letter relates principally to
Penet, Pleasanton & Co. That Willing & Morris
had recommended Schweighauser, & the
Secret Comtee. "We propose to load sundry
vessels with this Country's produce, for
different ports of Europe - such as go to
Nantes will be to your address, & such as
go to other places you will have credit to
draw on the Consignees for the nett proceed
but you must avoid explaining to any
of them, that the Cargoes are on public Acct
they will appear to them as private property
because we do not think its proper to ex-
plain this business to any one but yourself.
Remark — Messrs Penet & Pleasanton & Co
contracted to supply the U.S. with sundry

Articles — The Secret Comte were to make shipmts to discharge the Acct — Mr Schweighauser was to examine the Goods —
The Secret Comte made no Shipments consequently this letter has nothing to do with Willing Morris & Co.'s Acct — Their Shipments made on Acct of their own Contracts w[h] the Secret Comte could not be apply to the Contract of Pharne Penet & Co

Profit & Loss on Sale of Bills drawn on our funds in Europe by the Superintendant of Finance

	Drawn for	Loss	
1781 Dec. 31.	Dlls. 367,516.30.	42,705.49.	
1782. June 30th	30,215.49.	1,788. 76.	
Sept. 30	325,104.13.	32 831. 67	
1783. March 31.	508.317.67	44,659. 46	
June 30	388,580.	12.174. 64	
Sept. 30	341,302. 2		
Deduct for Bills cancelled	2,763.80		
Dec. 31	498,083.30	Profit	15.336
1784. March 31	5,528.65		970.
June 30	55555.50		1481
Sept. 30th	99426.27		4000.
	2,548,023.53.	174.460.	30.19817
Deduct	2 763.80	19817	
	2,545,259.63.	155,643.36	

Drafts by Bills of Exchange on

Grand		La coruña		Amsterdam
400000 liv.		1, 195, 000 liv.		12388
1, 515,630.		1, 118, 176		[illegible]
1, 743,174	3072,190.	580,631.		200,706 flor:
2, 311,863		300,000		100,000 flor:
2.700		90,260		560000 —
770,576				1,290,000 —
113,668				14319 —
				250000 —
6, 857,031				
3, 072,190				
9, 929221				
14925				
9, 914,296	de duct cancelled	292 498	remains	9,621,798

Extract from a Report to the Board of Treasury signed James Milligan Comptroller of the Treasury dated Dec.r 14th 1796.

Art. 2d The 341 Hhd.s of Tobacco said to have been sold to Lacare & Mallet, & amounting to 114,148 46/90 Dlls. No trace whatsoever of this transaction appearing in the books & files of the Treasury, or in the printed Book published by the late Superintendant because, it highly behoves Dr. Webb, at least to shew by what authority he acted on this occasion & to produce documents sufficient to establish the charge against Lacare & Mallet, as it is high time that the money should be paid by either him or them as the case may appear.

N. B. as Mr Webb has transmitted Copies of the Letter from Mr Morris to deliver the above Tobacco to Lacare & Mallet & of their receipt

Inspection of Grand Recets & Payments

		11,000000
Rec.d To Jan.y 1791.		14,024,671,18,12
		3,024 671 18 12
p.d for Interest on L.O. Certf.	5,319,960.	
D.o Salaries	1.160,183.16.	
D.o the Commissioners	223,404, 8.6.	
Interest Acct. (Dutch Ln: 1000000)	1,185,783,19.9	
p.d Price & Haywood	200,490,13,4	
D.o Bingham	100,000,0	
D.o Foreign Officers	94,868. 6.7	
D.o Sabatier fils & Dupres	546,546,5.	
D.o Jonat.n Williams	2,300 973, 7. 2	
D.o Monteiro	1,411,268, 1. 6	
† D.o Chaumont	1. 481,113, 2. 2	
	14, 024,671.18.12	

Rec.d from Jan.y 1791. to		24.760,469.15.11
the Close of his Accts		22.610,644.9.11
		2,149.825.6.0
Paid Interest Bills	3,000,000	
D.o Beaumarchais	2,832,000	
D.o Congress Bills	1,399,665,13.4	
D.o sent by Barney	600,861,16.	
D.o Capt.n Joiner	40.000.	
D.o Commd.r Gillon	221,386,2,	
D.o Com.l Lom.e Bills	360,000	
D.o Jays bills	975, 169,15,	
D.o Cloths in Holland	1,229,231, 4.4	
D.o Adams & Dawsons	1.000.000	
Mr. Morris's Bills	10, 852, 329,19, 9.×	
	22.610,644, 9,11	

Balance in his favor		874,846, 12.12
Paid J. Ross		465 648 3
D.o Hodge		100,000.
Goulard & Vreuylan		209,919.1.11
Sundries		100,000
Bondfield		186.084.15.
		1,936 .498. 3
† Wrong credit		1.481, 113. 2.2
Balance in his favor		455, 385 .5, 21

Trea Sum 9,621,798.

Balance in favor ---- 455,385.5.21
Error credited in Morris's bills× ---- 1,231, 521.
Balance as Grand ---- 776, 138

Public goods from Europe

1781 deliv.d to Cloth.r gen.l ---------- 1227.38

1782. Marine department ---------- 4534.69

Cloth.r Gen.l ---------- 1700.

Sold ---------- 84866.74

1783. Sold ---------- 3783. 8

Sold ---------- 77499

Sold ---------- 64591.28

Sold ---------- 47,555. 8

Sold ---------- 9412.13

Amounting in Livres to ---------- 295,149.58

Cost of D.o to the U.S. ---------- 1,475,770

To the French Court 5,000,000

Bought by Col. Lassers 1,229,331.

Bought by Barclay. 295,893.

6.525 224

1.475.770

5,049 336 loss to the U.S. 5.049,336

To this loss upon these goods must be added their freight & expences w.h may be supposed at 20 p.r C.t on ---------- 1305,246

Total loss to the U.S. ---------- 6,[redacted]5

Add the Marquis de Lafayette's charges & expences [redacted] about ---------- 1.[redacted]06.246

Add shipp.d by M.r Harrison from Cadiz — Cost & Charges Dlls. 23799 equalto ---------- 126,595

7,48[redacted]0.85

On the 15th of Oct. 1782. Mr. Morris took the Contract for supplying rations to the Army from the then Contractors, Daniel Livingston, Duer & Co. who contracted at 10. P.C. & gave it to Wadsworth & Co. at 13. D. which was an advance of 3 D. per Ration. The former Contractors had a monthly advance — the latter were to give three months credit on the monthly issues

Jan. 13. 1783. Wadsworth & Carter received from Mr. Morris, Superintendant, Bills on the U. S. Banker in Paris to the amount of Liv: 1,038,000 equal to Dlls. 192,222

For which Bills they are charg. 173,000 lost to the U.S. 19222

April 14th 1783 they receiv — 4,083 4

177,083 40

The Rations issued by Wadsworth & Carter were as follows

In Oct. 1782. 210,542 complied.

Do Nov. — 441,596 D.

Do Dec. — 449,063. D.

Issued by gent. Orders in Nov. 5020.

Do Do — Dec — 0062 D.

1,114,283.

From 1st Oct. to 31. Dec. — 47,760 2/3. uncomplied

Total issued 1,862-043 2/3.

1,162,043 2/3 Rat.s at 1/1, is Dlls 167,050 2/3

deduct for Rum not issued
on the incomplete Rations ——— 1174

Total value of the Rations issued Dlls 166,676 2/3

They received payment on 3d Jan.y 1783. 173,000.

By their contract, they were to be paid for all Rations issued in Dec.r on the 1.st 62 Feb.y 1783.— for all issued in Nov.r the 1.st 62 of March — in Dec.r on the 2d April 1783. Yet they were over paid on the 3d Jan.y 1783 for the whole issue which was even more than advancing the Money; tho' on this pretence that the public was to have credit, & not advance the money the Contract was taken away from the Contractors, & the price augmented 3d pr Ration

On the 29th Nov.r 1782, Messrs Parker & Co. contract with Mr. Morris to supply the Army in the States of N. York & N. Jersey for 1783 at 11d. P. Ct. a Ration on a credit of four Months on the monthly issues.

		Dlls
Dec.r 7, 1782 Mr. Morris advanced them		99,000
March 1783. Do	Do	110,000
April Do	Do	5 000
		214,000
May 17 [illegible] Mr. Morris paid them	68,080.	
June 9th Do	Do	16 000.
July 2d & 10	Do	19,619 57
Aug.t 27 & 28.	Do	18,562. 36
Sept.r Do	Do	34,437 73
Nov.r 13. [illegible]	Do	1,21
Dec.r 30th When the Contract expired		18 666. 60
		226 644. 67
May 31. 1784.		15 000.
Total paid them		440, 644. 67
Sep.r 30th 1784 Parker & Co. were credited for Issues under their Contract to Aug.t 27. 1784		399. 636 22
Balance overpaid		41, 008. 38

Contract with Wadsworth & dated 12th Oct 1782

The words of the Contract are - he will pay to the said Contractors on the 1st day of Feb.y next, all such sum & sums of money as shall be found due for rations issued in this present month of October on settlement of the Contractors accounts - & on the first day of March next all such sum or sums of money as shall be found due on settlement as aforesaid for the rations issued in the month of November, & on the second day of April all such sum & sums as shall be found due on settlement of Accounts for the rations issued for the month of Dec.r &c &c

(№408) Jan.y 13. 1787

I have not heard from or of you, my dear Brother, since Dec.r Your Sons, tho on the post road, never write me a line. The same apathy has pervaded all my friends in Virginia, so that I might as well be in the E. Indies, where, for aught I can learn of those I love most. We are here just as we were. Scrabbling — hoping — at times despairing — without a revenue — without a Congress & without a President. Massachusetts Connecticut, New York, ~~New Jersey~~ Pennsylvania South Carolina & Georgia are represented — No State will not grant the Impost — Pennsylvania will not seperate the Supplementary fund from the Impost & all hope of a permanent Revenue is lost. The N. England States & this will not concur in the Virginia Convention. The Insurgents in Massachusetts still stop the course of Justice with impunity. I apprehend that the arrival of L.d Dorchester & Chief justice Smith in Canada will not damp the ardour or diminish the resources of these opponents to order, government, & justice. To support these disturbers of our Independance We pass

will at least embarrass us; which in the Court of Beelzebub — if not victory, is yet revenge.

I have taken a house here, & if you come, we will live together. The violent opposition to the treaty with Spain, whether intended or not, does certainly promote two views which the Court of France have entertained — to prevent any connection between us & Spain & to put the Spaniards in possession of all the western Country.

Many happy returns to you Dearest Mary best love to all Adieu A L

13 Jan.y 1787

(N.408)

(No 140)

The Honble

Richd Hampden Esqr

To Rent due Mr Lee

to Guyhall

Mr Guyhall

Acct. Mr. Lee

3.9.9
1.6½
3.11.3

31½

2

62

7.9

69 9

3.9.a

12 | 93 | 7
84
9

7 | 0 | 6 | 9.9

3.9.9
3.

3.12.9
1.6
3.14.3

3.9.9
3.6
1.1½
3.13.10½

4.13.0

No 140

(N° 209)

July 21 1787

Long ago, My Dear Sir, I answered your welcome and obliging Letter and inclosed to you some papers relative to the proceedings of the present Session; but waiting for a favorable opportunity to convey it to you it was destroyed among some other papers in the late Fire —

I now send you the Report of a Committee which was appointed at my Instance as soon as the Assembly met — In that my friend R. H. Lee and myself have endeavored to enforce the necessity of observing some method & System in the management of our fiscal affairs — and we have pointed out some regulations which we conceived might produce good — if steadily pursued —

Regulations not quite so radical nor so extensive as might have been proposed — but perhaps more practicable and as proper as any which the

the perplexity and confusion of things would admit of — But I see, with infinite Regret, the utter impossibility of introducing any permanent and fixed plan of Finance — The Legislature seems to revolt at the Idea of System — They delight in confusion — what side grow out of the chaos there is little Difficulty in predicting — but perhaps much Reason to apprehend — I very much fear that the men who speculate most upon the public Securities are the members of the Assembly themselves — This being the case — Every thing is accounted for — You will find, Sir, in that Report the most accurate Statement of our several Funds and their respective appropriations — the Deficiencies and the Redundancies of Each — the whole Amt. of our National Debt including our Quotas to Congress — which however — (Our Acct.

with the U. States I mean / being very much perplexed and not yet adjusted - could be carried back with accuracy and certainty no further than the year 1782 - Thus then the foundation is laid - the most laborious and difficult part of the Work is accomplish'd - at the next Session we may proceed to build - at the present it was impossible - System is a novelty with us - we must be familiarized to it by degrees - We have passed several Laws, which tho I think, tend to facilitate and to ensure the faithful collection of the Taxes - we have given the Solicitor full power to proceed in the most summary way agt. public Delinquents.

The Radical cure, for so I am sure it would be, which you suggested - agt. the wicked speculations of the Sheriffs, I endeavoured, but to no purpose, to effect - there were, and I fear ever will be, too many men in the Legislature who either have been or

expect the Sheriffs to carry any point which stakes even distantly and obliquely at them — The Business of the Roads has been left untouched — not owing to my inattention to your excellent plan expressly mentioned some time past — but the Legislature having undertaken to bring in a Bill upon that Subject — which however, he had not time to complete — In truth we attend too much to private and local matters, too little to those of a general and public nature — How to prevent this ———

The Duty on Imported Articles has been augmented two p. Cent — and some other light additional Duties assimilated to those of Maryland — Here I took the opportunity of proposing towards the close of the Session — immediately after the arrival of

of some intelligence from France which strongly recommended them to the House — such for Instance as an additional 4 pence P. Gall. on old Wines except French Wines — an add.l two pence on old Spirituous Liquors — except French Brandies — and on these the Duty to be wholly taken off after the Day (the 20th of January) — The necessity of entering into some reciprocal commercial Regulations with Maryland and Pennsylvania prevented our going further as you may suppose — Commissioners have been appointed for this purpose — and as I have the Honor to be one of them I shall make a point of paying my Respects at Chantilly before I proceed to Annapolis — then I shall hope for your friendly Counsel — If we can prevent the Northern Neck, from being sacrificed — it will be something — Mr. Miller is waiting — I am under the necessity therefore of

N°. 40

abridging what I have to communicate upon the various proceedings of the Cote Assembly; having been very full and comprehensive in the Letter I wrote to you some time ago I lament it's loss more the more — but as the short space of Twenty Days may perhaps bring me to Chantilly, I shall console myself — The Family here join me, My Dearest Sir, in their most Resp.t and Aff.te Rem.ce to all at Chantilly — and I am, Ever Aff.te and Ever Resp.t Yours Sincerely

Buckingham Lodge
Middlesex January 20th 1787

F. Corbin.

Nº 40 (Nº 209) Jan.y 20th 87

~~(No 40)~~

abridging that o
upon the occasion
Assembly; having
comprehension is
some time ago
the more — bu

The Hon.ble R. H. Lee Esq.r
at
Chantilly

London Feby 4th 1707-

Dear Sir

Your nephew will tell you, that it has not been my fault that I have not seen more of him. He may depend on my attention & Service. He will of course inform you of the Events here as they pass- But you know the course of them far better than he can ever tell you, for the Date continue exactly the same on your remembery. The character of the Reign has suffer'd not the least variation- and tho' Lord Rochingam is no more, his Party perseveres exactly in the Principles you remember, fighting as they call it, against King

and People, convinced by above twenty years experience of the impossibility of arriving at their End by such means, & still more so of the inner most things of that End, which you know too well to make it necessary for me to dwell on the description. for to myself, I found more single than ever, and the attempt to which I aspire is by dint of so much character, as the respective parties may know me, or rather as consistency of conduct may procure me in spite of foibles, and great moderation of conduct to avert great calamities or at least to blunt the edge of them, as far as I am able.
I know no great Virtue to boast

in adopting this Line, for you are fully sensible the Reign is not disposed to delegate a regular course of power to any one, and I never had a passion for emolument. While Parties continue to wreck the Country, the Publick in doubt, subject as it is to perpetual Irrensible motion, has suffered a considerable change, the amount and nature of which cannot be easily calculated. In the one hand Commerce, Luxury, the perpetual changes of administration, the Want of Power in any, the Universal Relaxation of every part of Executive Government, the general Neglect of Education, the Bad Examples of Private Life among

Publick Men of very high descrypti-
-on have all done infinite mischief
on the other hand. The Success
of the War, the Emancypation of
Ireland, the necessity the Country
has found itself under of appealing
to the People on a late occasion, the
obligation they find themselves un-
-der of attending further to the People to
escape the chains of a Faction,
the bad examples I have men-
-tion'd and the changes which
carry'd them good as well as bad
with them, have made Men feel
themselves, and reason more than
they us'd to do, and I think upon
the whole the Publick may be
said to have gain'd considerably

and if we have the good fortune,
for it must be fortune, to avoid
downright destructive measures, we
shall have no reason to repent all
that has pass'd. To say that there
is no Anti American Principle re-
maining among us would be to de-
ceive, and I have no doubt that
it may produce some acts of fee-
ble weep, & some things which had much better
be let alone, but I am convinc'd
the principles of the Peace will
in the end and that in the course of
a very few years more their way,
and will & must prove the Com-
fort of our Union & lasting Union,
which will do Honour to Mon-
kind — I need not say that I mean

by this not a Legislative Union, in truth not so much an Alliance, as a similarity of Principle, which may embrace all nations & contribute to the happiness of all. I cannot express the happiness which the Peace gives me, and upon all the ills which have been prevented by the Line being drawn in America as it is, especially when I consider the papers, which I then had in my possession, and which I still keep by me, which prove beyond the possibility of contradiction, that there was nothing the French had more

Reflecting upon

at heart than to draw one, which would have made the Peace more immediately popular, but would have sown the seeds of fu-
-ture variance and made America more open to their active intri-
-guing spirit than Holland it-
-self. I shall look upon the opposition
to it as the most honourable circum-
-stance of my life. It gives me
very great satisfaction to record
within these few days from auth-
-ority which I am inclin'd to cre-
-dit, that the present administration
have been very fair in the Instruc
-tions, which they have given Gen-
-tleman by upon the chapter of
Indians, as I could not help fee-
-ling great uneasiness on the

subject as soon as I heard of any disturbance on the back of the United States. If the French Treaty is confirmed by Parliament, the new Principles must make a rapid Progress, and the old Pillars of Monopoly in every quarter must fall to the Ground. If it is not I still think the Progress of them will be only retarded, and that in a very few years the Public must get possession of them. It is a great misfortune to us, that the Tories Party which you must so well remember are in a habit of indiscriminate opposition without regard to any principle

new or old except the stale maxim of their Party.

There is no news from the Continent, where by all I can collect the Emperor must carry all his Points sooner or later; if his over activity does not defeat him I think nothing else can.

There are several Letters from Paris just arrived, which speak of Madame Polignac's disgrace as certain.

I should always be very glad to hear from you, and shall pay great regard to your sentiments on all occasions.

Lord Wycombe is returned

from abroad every thing we could
wish him except a clear sky, the re-
mains of a scarlet Fever, which we this
hope he will overcome. Publick
Speaking is a matter of such Un-
certainty, that it is impossible to
guess about him in that respect
but in every other he is likely to
excel as very high a very honest
Publick Man.

I am with great Truth
and Regard Dear Sir

Your Affectte
Hble Servt
Lansdown

Rosegill 8th Feb.y 24th 1787.

My dear Sir —

Since I last wrote to you, the passing bell has tolled for our friend, and my relation, poor Mrs. Taylor; after nine weeks of great suffering, as the family informed me, she was released from pain and the cares of this world the 22d. of last month — I was at Mount Airy a week before she died — your Nothers of Penoxbi and Chantilly were there also; the latter came over the day before her interment: the Ladies, Miss Sarah especially, most heartily and sincerely lament her; we all regret her as a person of great sweetness of temper and benevolence, and feel for her daughters, to whom she is a great loss. the amiable Mrs. Page of Rosewell is also dead. so much for matters of a melancholy cast. were I in Newyork or any other large city I would drive them from my mind, and go to the play, the court, or the ball, where there was life and gaiety — your letter of the 14th. of January I have received. will there never be an end of the absurd credulity of mankind? if the disturbances in the east arise from the interference of Lord Dorchester, he must be endued with miraculous powers, the effects of which were observing in America, when he was on the ocean. he arrived at Quebec the 29th. of October; before his arrival

could have been known in Massachusetts Bay, the people were in arms: we know weeks, nor the most elapse, if frequent meetings of the leaders to concert plans must be had: before popular insurrections break out, which carry with them manifest marks of premeditation, and deep design - you account for them, my friend, upon rational and true grounds. I blame Mr. Randolph exceedingly for sending a letter of Assembly of a private & official nature, which he received from Wyth, attributing these disturbances to the governor of Quebec: he knew better, and that date have the stubbornness of facts: it should be his part to disabuse the people, to take the bandage of delusion from their eyes, not to administer one to them: if these be the means of acquiring and maintaining popularity, men of rigid virtue and integrity never can obtain it.

my walk in life will probably in future be private & obscure; but, had I any influence, it should be exerted, never to yield the Independancy that this country possesses to any Sovereignty which should touch in time of peace, the free transport of our staple: better in my judgement that the federal feeble government should continue in it's present, or "dissolve in it's own weakness," than that this privilege should be resigned - what would be the consequence of Congress having this power of regulating commerce? a long

list of trade laws, restrictions, prohibitions, monopoly in favour of certain classes of men against the country, navigation acts, and a system to make trade subservient to revenue; the absurdity of which, they have lately detected and exposed in England, and which hang around the neck of commerce, like a mill stone - so many are the imperfections of the federal government, that I fear it is a hopeless, or at least a very difficult virtue to amend it, that every touch will make it worse, and that finally, it will die of the doctor. if you convert it from a federate, to an incorporate government, imperfections not fewer, will cleave to it. should the Congress consist of the same members only, as at present, foreign powers may gain any ascendancy by bribery and intrigues; augment the number, and the expence will be intolerable.

I confess I do not see, my way, and therefore would never commit this country to the control of any other sovereignty, where present advantages might be lost without gaining a balance in others. for my own part, I would prefer living under a government high headed and efficient to one of laxity and anarchy. Mr. Burke says, "in America" there is no excuse for tyrannical government: in the genuine spirit of freedom every man is his own Governor." this is true; my apprehension is that

the alterations proposed will not meliorate our condition.

does your subscription to your loan fill up fast? the report of the Treasury was well drawn, but, is your Bonus large enough? those, who lend their money, must have more faith than I have. the States may or may not contribute their quota; if they withhold their shares, what remedy have the Creditors? their faith will not make them whole.

the Magician has been casting his spells and shedding his enchantments in a county, where he has declared himself a candidate for the ensuing election: by powerful and splendid declamation he totally subdues their prejudices (for they had strong ones against him) and has, as we hear, secured their votes ad hominem.

when the Assembly passed the vote reprobating paper money, he said, he approved of it, now was not the time for it, it was not now wanted. thus, sir, is the armour of duplicity he never exposes himself, nor leaves himself without resource. he is at perfect liberty to act as may suit his policy and designs. if we think his morality easy and pliable, we must at least give him credit for his wiliness and art. remember April. we shall rejoice to see you. farewell. yours most sincerely & faithfully

Ralph Wormeley jun.

Mr Jefferson

Dear Sir

I have the honor to send inclosed by this
opportunity, the act of Assembly passed in May 1779 & by
which myself, with me and others, was appointed
Trustees to manage the sale of the Land held in
Tail by Mr. Wm Booth and his Lady, and to
purchase and settle other lands to descend as those
in Tail would have done. Mr. Booth died long since
sold the Intailed Land to Ogden Esq. of Maryland,
and purchased other Land of Col. Thruston, out of
which, I understand, he proposes to settle on his
Son a satisfaction for the Land that was intailed.

You will please to observe, Sir, that this Act
has a suspending Clause, and if it was never assent-
ed to, then our right to act in this business has never
existed, but Mr. Booth the younger (as heir to his
Brother) having the Fee simple under the Act of
Assembly

a assembly passed in 1776 for destroying Intails; possesses now the only power to make a conveyance to the purchaser. As these acts for docking Intails were of a private nature, the persons concerned did formerly interest themselves in such matters, and the Agents in London usually transmitted to them the Assent authenticated. On this plan, Mr. Booth may perhaps be in possession of this document, by which alone, it appears, that we can have any right to make a conveyance. If such shall be your opinions and the Assent be shewn to you; I will most readily as is undoubtedly will Mr. Lee the other surviving Trustee join you in a conveyance whenever the parties shall desire it, and produce to you a proper assurance from Mr. Booth the younger that his father has sufficiently assured him of a full equivalent for the Land the intail of which was dock't.

Mr. Lee & myself join with our daughters in presenting our best respects to Mount Vernon.

I have the honor to

dear Sir, with singular respect & esteem

your affectionate and

obedient Servant

Richard Henry Lee.

Board of Treaſury of the United States,

May 17th, 1787.

The United States in Congreſs having directed the Commiſſioners of this Board, to take the moſt effectual meaſures, for ſettling the accounts of the ſecret and commercial Committees of Congreſs.

Notice is hereby given,

THAT the accounts of the ſaid Committees, having been arranged, as far as the materials furniſhed by the reſpective parties, will enable them to proceed in that buſineſs; it has become neceſſary, to adopt immediate meaſures for cloſing theſe tranſactions. All perſons therefore, who have received public money from the general Treaſury, in purſuance of engagements entered into with the ſecret and commercial Committees of Congreſs, and who have not accounted for the ſame, are hereby required, to render and adjuſt their reſpective accounts within three months, computed from the preſent date; at the expiration of which time, proceſs will be commenced againſt ſuch as neglect this notice.

2 98 3m

SAMUEL OSGOOD,
WALTER LIVINGSTON,
ARTHUR LEE,
} Commiſſioners.

Dear Sir

Richmond May 20. 1787.

The Treasurer has authorized to pay Money for Warrants for Interest on the Military debt of this State on the 15th June next — I shall therefore on that day receive the sum of Nine pounds being the Amount of the Interest I have drawn on the Subjoined Warrant of yours, and transmit the same to you. The principal is subject to your Order.

I find it impossible to sell or let your Lotts to any tolerable advantage — Those adjoining Mr Ambler are very valuable — and ought to command a good price — but such is the scarcity of Money that I believe not more than One thousand dollars could be had for them.

The One near Mr Hays — is not of much value at present — for could it be sold for Cash on almost any terms

I have the honor to be with much Esteem

Dear Sir Your most obedt Servant

W. Hopkins

Dear Sir Philadelphia May 21st: 1787.

I take the Opportunity, by bold Carrington, of returning the Papers You left in my Hands, when I had the pleasure of Your Company at Gunston-Hall.

I arrived in this City on Thursday Evening last, but found so few of the Deputies here, from the several States, that I am unable to form any certain Opinion on the Subject of our Mission. The most prevalent Idea, I think at present, is a total Change of the Federal System; and instituting a great national Council, or Parliament, upon the Principles of equal proportionate Representation, consisting of two Branches of the Legislature, invested with full legislative Powers upon the Objects of the Union; and to make the State Legislatures subordinate to the national, by giving to the latter a Negative upon all such Laws as they shall judge contrary to the Principles & Interest of the Union;

to

establish, also a national Executive; and a Judiciary System, with Cognizance of all such Matters as depend upon the Law of Nations, & such other Objects as the local Courts of Justice may be inadequate to. I shall do myself the Honour of corresponding with You, from time to time, & shall be much obliged to You for Your Sentiments upon the important Subjects that will be agitated in this Convention; upon which the Prosperity & the Safety of our Country will so materially depend.

I have received Your Letter by Majr. Jackson: nothing, that I have heard, has yet been mentioned upon his Subject, among the Deputies now here; tho' I understand there are several Candidates; which I am surprized at, as the Office will be of so short Duration, & merely honorary; or possibly introductory to something more substantial.

I am, with the greatest Esteem & Regard,

dear Sir

Your most obdt. Servt.

G. Mason

Amendments to the Confederation

1. Impost for 25 years & the collection of it
2. ~~Regulation of the~~
3. ~~High ways~~ Highways throughout the U. S. to be ~~[illegible]~~ Highways ~~[illegible]~~
~~to be guarded by Congress~~
2. The Regulation of the Commerce of the U. S.
4. Supreme federal Court of Error & appeal, the Judges to be appointed by Congress with supreme jurisdiction in all causes in wch the U. S. are concerned
5. All Judges Executive Officers appointed by the ~~[illegible]~~ States to take an Oath to observe & obey the federal Laws & the writs of Error, decrees, judgments, orders & warrants of the federal Court in federal Causes.
6. The Warrant of the Chief Justice to the President of Congress to be of force throughout all the U. S. & all Sheriffs under Sheriffs Constables & other executive Officers to obey & execute them.
7. A Convention shall be holden ~~[illegible]~~ to meet the 1st Monday in May every 5 years, for the purpose of examining into the Administration of the federal Government for the 5 preceding years & proposing such amendments & additional Provisions to them as may seem necessary. For which purpose the said Convention shall have power to appoint a Committee wch shall examine the several Journals of Congress & report thereon.

George Mason.

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George Mason Esqr
Colo. Fairfax
Colo. Mason

The Honble
Arthur Lee Esquire

New York

C 7

Dear Sir, New York July 15. 1787

I have the honor to enclose to you an Ordinance that we have just passed in Congress for establishing a temporary government beyond the Ohio, as a measure preparatory to the sale of the Lands. It seemed necessary, for the security of property among uninformed, and perhaps licentious people, as the greater part of those who go there are, that a strong toned government should exist, and the rights of persons be clearly defined. Our next object, is to consider of a proportion made for the purchase of 5 or 6 millions of Acres, in order to lessen the domestic debt. An object of much consequence this, since the extinguishment of this part of the public debt would not only relieve from a very heavy burthen, but by diminishing the Ocean of public Securities, we should stop that mischievous deluge of speculation that now hurts our morals, and extremely injures the public affairs.

Our

Our Gazettes continue to be filled with publications against the Spanish Treaty and for opening the Mississippi, some of them plausible, but generally weak and indecent. This seems to be contending for an Object unobtainable for many years, and probably never without War not only with Spain, but most likely with the Bourbon Alliance - And by such contention exposing the Government of the United States to a dishonorable acquiescence under the Captivity of its Citizens and Confiscation of their effects by Spain, on the Mississippi, or entering precipitately into a destructive war in resentment for such doings. At the same time discarding the friendship for the amity of a powerful Monarch and thereby probably loose what we may hope, our share of a Commerce that yields annually 4 or 5 millions of dollars for Cod fish only, independant of the Tobacco many valuable articles of American production used in Spain & not interfering with their own products. To say nothing of a most lucrative contraband Trade from the Ocean on the Mississippi which a friend might wink at, but which a vigilant and powerful enemy will prevent. It seems to me that N. America is going, if we are prudent, to be the Entrepôt between the East Indies and Spanish America - If to these we could join the settlement of a disputed boundary and obtain a powerful guarantee thereof, surely such considerations greatly outweigh the far sought apprehension of an alliance of the Kentuckians with

with the British, and especially when we consider that a conduct which will procure the amity of Spain, will probably force her into the open arms of G. Britain much to our Commercial and political injury. And after all, if this navigation could be opened and the benefits be such as are chimerically supposed, it must in its consequences depopulate down the Old States.

The argument may shortly thus be stated – Spain will not agree to the Navigation within her limits – Can we force it in 25 years – if we cannot why risk for an unobtainable Object the loss of valuable objects, and the incurring pernicious consequences. A candid and impartial consideration of this subject must, I think determine the question without difficulty – But I beg your pardon Sir for writing as much on this question, which I doubt not but you have fully considered before.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect & esteem, dear Sir, Your affectionate and most obedient Servant

Richard Henry Lee.

My dear brother. New York July 14th 1787

I arrived at this place a week ago almost destroyed with heat and fatigue - Here I found Grayson in the Chair of Congress as Locum Tenens for the President who is absent - After some difficulty we passed an Ordinance for establishing a temporary government beyond the Ohio as Preparatory to the sale of that country - And now we are considering an offer made to purchase 5 or 6 Millions of acres with Past. Securities - I hope we shall agree with the Offer, but really the difficulty is so great to get any thing done, that it is not easy for the Planets propositions to succeed - We owe much money, the pressure of Taxes is very great & much complained of - we have now something to sell that will pay the debt & discharge the greatest part of the Taxes, and altho this something is in a fair way of being soon wrested from us by the Sons of Violence, yet we have a thousand little difficulties that prevent us from selling! - I found the Convention at Phil.a very busy & very secret, it would seem however, from variety of circumstances that we shall hear of a Government not

not unlike the B. Constitution - That is, an Execu
with 2 branches composing a federal Legislature
and possessing adequate power. This departure
from simple Democracy seems indispensably
necessary, if any government at all is to exist
in N. America — Indeed the minds of men have
been so hurt by the injustice, folly, and wicked=
=ness of the State Legislatures; & State Executives —
that people in general seem ready for any
thing — I hope however, that this tendency to
extreme will be so controuled as to secure
fully and completely the democratic influence
acting within just bounds — The Land Speculators
continue to urge the open Mississippi, immediately, against every
principle of policy, common good, & common
sense — upon this I shall write you more fully
hereafter. The bills of R. Morris have been
refused in France, to a very considerable amount
it is said — Time must discover how this will
work, & what it will produce. The discoveries of
fraud among the great officers of State in France
proves that private imbezzlement of public
Money

not confined to America - There seems to be much convulsion in France on this occasion at present.

My Love, if you please to Mrs Lee and when you have an opportunity, let me know that you are all well.

farewell

Richard Henry Lee

P. S. I do really consider it a thing of consequence to the public interest, that Col. H. Lee of Stratford should be in our next Assembly, and therefore I wish you would exert yourself with the old Squire to get his resignation, or disqualification rather, so that his Nephew may get early into the house of Delegates — I know it is like persuading a Man to sign his own death warrant but upon my word the State of pub. affairs renders this sacrifice of place & ease necessary —

R. H. Lee

(see Ballagh II. 423)

R. H. Lee to Atherton

July 14th 1787.

(190) (Atherton)

R. H. Lee's answer

Boston

Philadelphia 19th. July 178.

Dear Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your favor of the 15th. Inst. and thank you for the Ordinance which was enclosed in it. -

My sentiments with respect to the Navigation of the Mississippi have been long fixed, and are not dissimilar to those which are expressed in your letter; - I have ever been of opinion that the true policy of the Atlantic States would be, instead of contending, prematurely, for the free Navigation of that River (which eventually, and perhaps as soon as it shall be our true interest to obtain it) must happen, to open and improve the natural communications with the western Country

through

(61) through which the produce of it might be transported with convenience & ease to our Markets.

Till you get down the Ohio I conceive (considering the length of the voyage to New Orleans - the strength of the curr.t - and the time required to perform the voyage) that it would be the interest of the Inhabitants thereof to bring their produce to our ports; and sure I am there is no other tie by which they will ever form a link in the chain of federal union. - I believe however, from the temper in which these people appear to be, and from the ambitious, and turbulent spirit of some of their demagogues that it has become a most perplexed decide (when every circumstance which attends this business is taken into view) what is best to be done - The State of Virginia having

entered

entered so warmly into the matter, it
met among the least embarrassing,
& disagreeable parts of the difficulty.

With you permit me to put the
enclosed letter under cover to you. — For
the Gentleman to whom it is addressed,
I have lately received a letter of which
this is an acknowledgment.

With very great esteem and
regard. I have the honor to be
Dear Sir
Y. Mo. Obed. & Aff. Sr
G. Washington

G. Washington

Navigation of the
Mississippi

Original letter
G. W. to a Gentleman
of Virginia

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Copy Gentlemen Philadelphia Augt. 1. 1787

I received the letter you did me the honor of writing to me the 16th. instant respecting the Accounts of Mr Ross, & the U. States, with their Vouchers, supposed to be in my hands. I have made some search for them, but do not find them, & think they were probably delivered with other public accounts to Mr. Barclay. However, as soon as my Grandson returns from Albany, whom I expect in a week or ten days, & who knows better than I do, the arrangement of our immense mass of papers, I shall cause a more full search to be made, & if these you demand are found, they shall immediately be sent to you

I have the honor to be &c &c

Honble Samuel Bryan
Arthur Lee Esqrs

B. Franklin

My D. Sir

On Tuesday or Wednesday I leave this place on my return to Virginia — If you have any commands that I can Execute for you be good Enough to let me know them by that time — they shall be obeyed faithfully and with pleasure — You have heard, no doubt, that another Court House (New Kent) with the Clerks office and all the Records has been burnt down — Where is the Executive? ought not a Proclamation to have been issued by them to apprehend the offenders when King William Court House was burnt? and would not this probably have prevented the destruction of the New Kent one —? But they are all Honorable men, and wise no doubt as they are

Honorable —— by courtesy. Happy State with such an Executive! but unhappy Executive with such a State!

Debtors are giving about, I understand, for paper money, for instalments, or to make property, or valuation, a tender for Debt —. How many shoes does Frank spare?

Pray present me kindly to Mr. Lee, and tell him with how much pleasure I write Executive my Command do my love in Virginia — As soon as the Assembly meets I will recommence my correspondence with you and him — till then

Believe me Yours dear and sincerely

May 8th 1785

R. Lee

If you have not hypothecated your Bills on
Alexandria - and will have occasion for
the money for a month or six weeks after
date - I will purchase a Bill on Messrs
[illegible] from thence to Alexandria and
remit it by you or some of your
Friends -

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Portrait of Poetess

Mrs. Ann Hall Gilman Sage

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Dear Sir, New York Octob. 31. 1787

C. T

I was unwilling to interrupt your attention to more important affairs at Phila. by sending there an acknowledgement of the letter that you were pleased to honor me with from that City; especially as this place afforded nothing worthy of your notice. We have the pleasure to see the first Act of Congress for selling federal lands N. W. of Ohio becoming productive very fast - A large sum of public securities being already paid in upon the first sales: and a new Contract is ordered to be made with a company in N. Jersey for the lands between the two Miamis that will rid us of at least 2 millions more of the public debt. There is good reason to suppose that by the next spring we shall have reduced the domestic debt near six millions of dollars. And it seems clear that the lands yet to be disposed of, if well managed, will sink the whole 30 millions that are due. The assiduity with which the

Congress

Court of London is soliting that of Spain for the conclusion of a Commercial treaty between those powers, renders it a signal misfortune that we have not been able to get a sufficient number of the States together to produce a conclusion of the Spanish Treaty. The state of Europe, with respect to the continuance of peace still hangs in doubtful ballance. The finance weakness of France & G. Britain most strongly opposes war, yet the state of things is such as renders it very questionable, whether even that difficulty, great as it is, will secure the continuance of peace. It is under the strongest impressions of your goodness and candor that I venture to make the observations that follow in this Letter, assuring you that I feel it among the first distresses that have happened to me in my life, that I find myself compelled by irresistible conviction of mind to doubt about the new System for federal government recommended by the late Convention.

It is Sir, in consequence of long reflection upon the nature of Man and of government, that I am led to fear the danger that will ensue to Civil Liberty from the adoption of the new system in its present form. I am fully sensible of the propriety of change in the present plan of confederation, and altho there may be difficulties not inconsiderable, in procuring an adoption of such amendments to the Convention System as will give necessity to the just rights of human nature, and better secure from

from injury the discordant interests of the different parts of this Union; yet I hope that these difficulties are not in= =surmountable. Because we are happily uninterrupted by external war, or by such internal discords as can prevent peaceable and fair discussion, in another Con= =vention, of those ~~difficulties~~ objections that are fund= =amentally strong against the new Constitution which abounds with useful regulations. As there is so great a part of the business well done already, I think that such alterations as must give very general content, could not long employ another Convention when provided with the sense of the different States upon those alterations.

I am much inclined to believe that the amend= =ments generally thought to be necessary, will be found to be of such a nature, as tho they do not oppose the exercise of a very confident federal power; are yet such as the best Theories on Government, and the best practise upon those Theories have found necessary. At the same time that they are such as the opinions of our people have for ages been fixed on. It would be unnecessary for me here to enumerate particulars as I expect the honor of waiting on you at Mount Vernon in my way home early in November. In the mean time I have only to request that my best respects may be presented to your Lady

and

2 94

That I may be remembered to the rest of the good family of Mount Vernon.

I have the honor to be dear Sir, with the most unfeigned respect, esteem and affection, your most obedient and very humble Servant

Richard Henry Lee.

If the next Packets should bring us any important advices from Europe I will communicate them to you immediately —

My Dear Sir.

Richmond City Octr 26th 1787.

The house of Delegates yesterday came to a resolution that the federal plan of government transmitted by Congress from the late Convention should be delivered to the people for their consideration without any comment or recommendation either for or against — The election of the Delegates to the Convention in this State is to take place on the March Court Days — and the Convention is to meet on the last monday in may next — any Person that is a freeholder in the State is eligible the Senate have not yet concurred but as our Votes were unanimous there is very little probability of opposition from that quarter —

I have taken this early method of communicating this that you may prepare yourself if you think proper for a role in our County —

Messrs Madison — Carrington, Lee — Brown from Kentucky & Mr. Cyrus Griffin are elected for Congress — Mr. Randolph is again Governor. I am sorry that you & the rest of my Friend at New York have forgotten me — pray present me most affectionately to yr Brother & tell him I hope to see him in the Convention — also to Colo Lee & Lady — to Messrs Madison & Carrington —

We have a great deal of Business on the carpet — Din preparation — nothing so forward as even to form conjectures upon this point — I could wish to give you my sentiments upon this celebrated production from Philadelphia but time is wanting — suffice it to say at present that I remain yr most

sincerely Affectionate Kinsman

George Lee Lumbercille

Wanting — adjourn — to sit — Thursday morning the

FREB

Honorable

Arthur Lee esqr.

Board of Treasury

New York

In every question of legal title the Chancellor must send it to a Jury — where intention only is in issue, it is optional tho even then if of consequence he will not decide without verdict as in Corker & Hare well. Whenever factum vel non is in issue the Chancellor cannot determine. In questions on Wills in [redacted] the title depend on the words & the will being unpunctuated, there is optional. as in Tanner & Wise marriage — adultery — legacy it must go to a jury.

tionally being the

Richd City

My dear Sir

Octo 28th 1787

When I went to the post office to put a my letter to you I found your favr Octobr 18th on the table but being at that time very much engaged I deferred the answer till a more suitable & next post –

The plan of a government proposed to us by the Convention affords matter for examination to every mind of benign form the Governor & the Sow keeper – The opinions appear to be as various as the persons professing them – The entire admission of the thing in toto, fortunately for us appear the least considerable – a cool consolidated & compact is composed of those who view the plan as an admirable frame wanting only some few amendments to render it desirable – are a pretty considerable band & consists of those who hold it as the engine of distruction – I never think a stroke of wit but with detestation and abhorrence – The extremes are certainly erroneous. As it stands – I really think your objections are unanswerable – together with some others that have great weight with me particularly the unwarrantable & heterogeneous mixture of legislative, judicial & executive powers in the Senate, – That truly republican method of forming the rulers into the character of citizens again by incapacitating them for a is for a certain number of years – after having been as many in office – This certainly is a Barrier against oppression that we ought to give up. & the opposition to it can only be made by those ambitious persons who may expect to obtain those high offices – Mr Wilsons – opinion has no weight with me when he declares – that at the formation of the State Legislatures we gave up all that we did not reserve – & that in this Constitution we retain all that we do not give up. because I cannot observe upon what foundation he has rested this serious observation – The same reason is applicable in both cases. to my comprehension – & this points out to me the absolute necessity of a bill of rights – and that a very full & explanatory one too – where not only the Liberty of the press. but trial by Jury & the writings & all those great points – but even every the most trivial privilege that Citizens have a right to possess – should be expressly stipulated

and reserved — & the violation of them most scrupulously & jealously guarded against — Of what consequence is the federal guarantee of republican governments to the individual States, when the power of the Militia even is vested in the president — & when we find that the great advocate for the new plan (Mr. Wilson I allude to) is compelled to acknowledge, while he tries to postpone the future importance of the State Legislatures — that they will be merely nominal — since the Election of Senators — is the only instance he can produce of their existance in Action — & that the representative shall be voted for by such persons as are qualified to vote for the largest Body of the State Legislatures — is another of his facts, which certainly makes against him — since the existence of them in this instance is Nominal & nothing else —

Take but the trouble to examine the mode of choosing the president & you will find — that 15 persons may elect him — in this Choice the Representatives (if a Majority of Votes is not in favor of one man) ~~are to take the five~~ ~~or if five Members have~~ have a right to choose the president from those who are the foremost on the poll & they are to vote by States, take a majority of the seven smallest States & you will find 15 persons competent to the election of a president —

I may be wrong in some of these observations — they arise from the cursory attention which I have alone been able to give to this subject never having seen it until within these few days — & the Business of the house has been such as to prevent me even praying that attention to my Friends that I am bounden to pay to them — by writing as their Representative to them —

Let me request you not to forget the convention in this State coming on so as to spend a fortnight in the County & you may ensure your Election —

I shall be very much obliged to you for such pieces as are furnished by the Newspapers both to and against this system. The News papers that you have sent will be a regale to me for ours are stuffed with such guileless panegyric — or such low abusive invective that I never pretend to examine them —

You shall receive every week an Acct of the [redacted] matters in debate. A [redacted] manner adopted by the Legislature here a fierce conflict happened in Georgia on the 29th of Sept[r] between the whites under Gen[l] Clarke & the Creek Indians 150 on each side — 25 of the latter were [illegible] & between 30. & 40 wounded — 6 of Clarks people were killed & 18 or 20 wounded — The Indians were driven off & some of their baggage such as Skellets, blankets, Rifles were taken — they are preparing for a vigorous Indian expedition in that State —

I am Dear Sir &c[a]

Most Affectionately

George Lee Turberville

A Newyorck le 16. Novembre 1787.

Monsieur.

J'ai l'honneur de Vous addresser ci joint un nouveau portrait de Sa Majesté. J'espere qu'il repondra exactement aux dimensions que Vous avés bien voulu me donner. La Cour me charge de Vous le presenter comme une nouvelle marque du Souvenir, qu'elle conserve toujours de Vos services. /.

Je suis avec un respectueux attachement

Monsieur

Votre très humble et
très obeissant serviteur

= Otto.

hon.le M. Lee, Commissaire de la Tresorerie.

Irvington

New York 16. Nov.r 1785

Sir

I have the honour of forwarding to you another portrait of his majesty. Should it still answer exactly to the Impression you was so good as to give me.

My Court has charged me to present you this portrait, as a fresh proof of the remembrance they ~~will~~ always retain of your Services

I am, with respectfull attachment, Sir, your most ob.t Hble

Otto

The Hon.ble M.r Lee, Commissioner of the Treasury.

Private

Dear Sir, Nov. 19th 1787

I had the honor of receiving your favor of yesterday, together with a miniature portrait of his Majesty. I entreat you, Sir, to express to your Court, in the most lively terms, the sensibility with which I receive this testimony of their favor, & the portrait of a monarch whose virtues I revere.

Be pleased to accept my thanks, Sir, for the politeness with which you preferred my request, I have [illegible] the gratification of it.

I have the honor to be, with sentiments of the most perfect esteem, Dear Sir, Your most obed.t

Servt. A. Lee

My dear Sir

Boston Dec^r 3^d 1787

I am to acknowledge your several Favours of the 5^th and 27 of October, the one by the Post and the other by our worthy Friend Mr Gerry. The Session of our General Court which Lasted six Weeks, and my Station there requiring my, punctual & constant Attendance, prevented my considering the new Constitution as it is already called, so closely as was necessary for me before I should venture an Opinion

I confess, as I entered the Building I stumbled at the Threshold. I meet with a National Government, instead of a federal Union of Sovereign States. I am not able to conceive why the Wisdom of the Convention led them to give the Preference to the former before the Latter. If the several States in the Union are to become one entire Nation, under one Legislature, the Powers of which shall extend to every Subject of Legislation, and its Laws to be supreme & controul the whole, the Idea of Sovereignty in those States must be lost. Indeed I think, upon such a Supposition, those Sovereignties ought to be eradicated from the Mind; for they would be Imperia in Imperio justly deem'd a Solecism in Politicks, & they would be highly dangerous, and destructive of the Peace, Union and Safety of the Nation. And can this National Legislature be competent to make Laws for the free internal Government of one People, living in Climates so remote and whose "Habits & particular Interests" are and probably always will be so different. Is it to be expected that General Laws can be adapted to the Feelings of the more Eastern & the more Southern Parts of so extensive a Nation? It appears to me difficult if practicable. Hence then may we not look for Discontent, Uneasiness, Disaffection to government and frequent Insurrections, which will require standing Armies to suppress them

them in one Place & another where they may happen to arise. Or if Laws could be made, adapted to the local Habits Feelings, Views & Interests of those distant Parts, would they not cause Jealousies of Partiality in Government which would excite Envy and other malignant Passions productive of Wars and fighting. But should we unite distinct Sovereignties, confederated for the Purposes of mutual Safety and Happiness, each contributing to the federal Head such a Part of its Sovereignty as would under the Government fully adequate to those Purposes and no more, the People would govern themselves most easily, the Laws of each State being well adapted to its own Genius & Circumstances, and the Liberties of the United States would be more secure than they can be, as I humbly conceive, under the proposed new Constitution. You are sensible, Sir, that the Seeds of Dissension began to spring even before the Conclusion of our Struggle for the natural Rights of Men. Seeds which like a Canker Worm lie at the Root of free governments. So great is the Wickedness of some Men, & the stupid Servility of others, that one would be almost inclined to conclude that Commonwealths cannot be free. The proud haughty Families, think They must govern. The Body of the People tamely consent & submit to be their Slaves. Tis enough like the Kingdom of Heaven being enslaved by the few! But I must desist — My weak hand prevents my proceeding further at present. I will send you my poor Opinion of the political Structure at another Time. In the Interim oblige me with your Letters; & present mine & Mrs A's best Regards to your Lady & Family, Col Francis, Mr A-L. if with you, & other Friends, & be assured that I am

very affectionately

Yours
J Adams

N. B. I thought it a piece of Justice I have ventured to say that I had often heard from the best Patriots from Virginia that Mr G Mason was an early ardent & able Advocate for the Liberties of America

Hon[ble] R. H. Lee Esq[r]

Dec 3 1787.

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The joint committee appointed to enquire into the
issuing during the Course of Last Winter and Spring from the
Continental Loan Office in this State of Some Part of the 1/10th of the
Continental State Money received to Congress and to devise Such Means
as might by them be Deemed most effectual to Prevent the State sustaining
any Loss and Loss by the issuing of Such Money as aforesaid beg leave
to report that they find on enquiry that there has been issued from the
Continental Loan Office in virtue of Orders drawn by the Commissioners of the
Board of Treasury in the Months of December and March last the Sum
of 510 £ 12 s 17/90 Continental State Dollars;

Whereupon your Committee came to the following
Resolutions which are Submitted to the consideration of both Houses —

Resolved That so much of the Monies
arising from Assessment and Duties appropriated to Congress being
equal to the Sum of Continental State Money issued on the Orders
aforesaid and the Interest thereof be appropriated to Such Uses as
the General Assembly Shall hereafter direct

Resolved That the Delegates from this
State to Congress be directed and instructed to apply to Congress
for Information by what Authority the aforesaid Sum of 510 12 17/90
Continental State Dollars was issued from the Continental Loan Office
in this State Whether by any recent Order or Resolution of Congress
or merely by the Authority of the Commissioners of the Board of Treasury
of the United States in Virtue of Some Agreement or Contract by them
entered into on behalf of the United States with Private Persons

Resolved That if the aforesaid Sum was
issued merely by the Authority of the said Commissioners that
the Delegates be directed to move in Congress that the Said
Commissioners

Commissioners appear before Congress and there declare the Nature and terms of the Contract by them entered into and with what Persons and exhibit an Authenticated Copy of Said Contract and make known the Names of the Persons who first applied to the Said Commissioners for the issuing of Said Continental State Money from the Continental Loan Office in this State and declare the Nature and extent of the Terms first Proposed by Such Persons, and lay before Congress a Copy of Said Terms or Propositions if reduced to Writing, and Preserved in the Board of Treasury of the United States

Resolved That the Delegates aforesaid be directed and Instructed to obtain information from Congress, Whether any Part of 1/10th of the Continental State Money reserved to the use of the United States has been lately drawn out of the Continental Loan Office of any of the other States, and which of them and When and to what Amount respectively

Assented to 16 Decem[r] 1787

True Copy

Wm Harwood. C.H.D.

(No 410)

War Office December 20. 1787.

Gentlemen

I have had the honor to receive your order of yesterday, in which you state at large, the difficulties attending the continuance of the supplies of rations, and other articles to the troops on the frontiers — That these difficulties arise from the total disregard of some of the states to the requisitions of Congress — that others have diverted to state purposes, the monies already in their respective treasuries due on former requisitions: and that you have not the most distant hope of receiving for a considerable time any payments into the treasury except from Connecticut, New York Maryland Pennsylvania and New Jersey — from two of these states (namely New Jersey and Pennsylvania) little can be expected, and that little will be paid to those who may have warrants on them in a paper, which is at least depreciated 25 ℔ Cent.

That thus circumstanced, your duty to the public (whose interest would be materially effected if the troops on the frontiers should disband for want of Provisions) has led you to ascertain from Mr. O'Hara the Contractor, on what terms he would continue the necessary expenditures to the westward; which terms you detail.

On this statement you are pleased to ask me, whether the public interest will admit of a reduction of the military establishment during the ensuing year, and if not that I would give you my opinion on Mr. O'Hara's propositions

for post St Vincent.

I conceive Gentlemen, the troops on the frontiers essential the public interest — that if they are either withdrawn or dis= ended, that the western territory will be immediately over= whelmed by bold usurpers, who will require but little time and preparation to bid defiance to the force of the Union.

That being thus deprived of a valuable property which judiciously managed might be justly considered as an ample source for the payment of the domestic debt, will not be the only injury suffered by a disbandment of the troops. for it may be reasonably concluded that the conduct of the intruders would be as evidently unjust to the neighboring indians as it may have been to the United States — & War with the Savages would be the consequence, on which the regular settlers on the frontiers would suffer perhaps in as great a degree as the lawless adventu= and the United States compelled to incur great expences or to be disgraced in the eyes of the world.

A military force being an indispensable principle in the hands of the Sovereign to regulate and protect the numer= =ous emigrants into the western territory, a still greater evil would probably attend the disbandment of the troops than any before enumerated.

A separate interest from the United States may be expected to spring up naturally in the minds of men holding their lands by the tenure of force and the temporary imbecility of the general government. — This temper will endeavor to derive strength from the accumulation of numbers and will omit no opportunity of obtaining security by association

hostile

hostile to the United States, with any power that may be able and willing to afford assistance.

The certain intelligence of the hostile dispositions of the Savages renders it probable that the troops must be augmented to the establishment directed by Congress on the 3. of October last instead of diminished during the course of the ensuing year. With respect to the price of the ration at post St Vincents, it appears to be too high were Specie to be paid for it, & you were to form a new Contract for one of the term of other years.— But when it shall be considered that the number of the Troops at St. Vincents do not much exceed One hundred — that the arrangments and expences for issuing are the same as for a much larger number — that the navigation of the Wabash at certain seasons is difficult and almost impracticable, the boats of the troops in last August being nearly a month in ascending to post St Vincents — That its distance is one thousand miles from Fort Pitt, from which the flour & liquors must be furnished — that the mode of payment is exceedingly defective, and above all that you cannot now obtain any other person to supply the troops at that post to the last of June, the conclusion is that you are inevitably constrained to agree for the said sum rather than suffer the troops to starve, for they cannot be withdrawn during the time of the contract, the distance from hence being fourteen hundred miles — The States whose conduct are the cause of your giving this high price, must be responsible for the consequences.

As it is probable that some agreement may have

been

Gen.l Knox
Dec. 20 '87

been joined with Brigadier General Hamtramck respecting the issue of the forty thousand rations supplied him in the month of July last, the board may think proper to make some stipulation in the contract so as to avail the public of any favorable circumstances in said agreement.

I expect daily to receive the fullest information respecting this matter which shall be transmitted to the board.

I have the Honor to be

Gentlemen

with much esteem & respect

Your humble Servant

(signed) H. Knox

Compared with the Original in the Office of the Board of Treasury

Wm. Duer Sec.y

Papers relating to my Journey to Kentucke Jan.y 1788

1787

The honorable

The Board of Treasury

Statement of the Liquidated & Loan Office Debt of the U. S. the 31st Decemb. 1790.

	Dlls.	90ths.
Credits & Sundries on the Treasury by Bills of Exchange	204,778.	79
Loan Office Certificates Specie (1790) in circulation	114,769.	88
Credits on the Treasury on settled Accounts for Certificates cancelled	2,600,129.	39
Foreign Officers interest payable in France	105,357.	71
Lincoln's & Moultrie's Drafts from S.C.	33,983.	44
Certificates issued by Genl Sherburne Com: Marine	43888.	59
Do Jona. Burrall D. for Com.ts & 2d Mrs Depart.	471,354.	40
Wm Deming 2. Mrs Department	30185.	20
Jno Linden. Clerk Do	2268.	70
Chas Fox Do Hospital Do	6197.	32
Benj. Walker Do Marine, Cloth & Hosp.	197238.	74
Stephen Gorham to Citizens of N. H.	6609.	43
Imlay & Flint Mapps.	196,488.	57
Wm Thomson Connecticut	26657.	13
Ed. Shinn Rhode I.	27159.	32
Wm Barbar N. Y.	1,230047.	39
B. Thomson N. J.	876,693,	4
Stille & Flory Penn.	906700.	28
Wm Winder Del.	43975	
Nourse & White Md.	68753.	71
Turner & Dunscombe Virg.	159,708.	84
J. Hindman N. C.	8555	76
Gm Aertsen S. C.	65	
Jos Sumner Georgia	2397.	48
Total		3,614,011. 45
Jno Peirce Com: Army Accts		8,[illegible]93. 46
Loan Office Certs issued to Specie 1st Sept. 1777	3778,900.	
3459,000 between Do & March 4th 1778	2538,572.	
59830212. after 1st March 1778.	3,146,330	
	11463802	
Deduct Cancelled in the Treasury	51514. 44	
Total		11412,287. 44
Total L. O. & Liquidated Debt		27,995,242. 47

I had the honor of receiving a few days since your Lordships favor of the 26th of Jan.y

Mr Austin will command every advice & assistance I can give him, not only from the desire I shall always have of promoting your Lordships wishes, but from a persuasion of the propriety of the purpose of his mission. He has spend his time in this City & informs me that he receives all the assistance he can wish from the governing powers of this State. I am persuaded he will meet with the same disposition in all the States.

You have obliged me infinitely my Lord by the particular & pleasing detail you give me of yourself & family because I feel the warmest interest in whatever concerns your happiness.

My Brothers after whom your Lordship has the goodness to enquire, have retired from public business to their Estates, which their constant attention to public affairs during the most perilous times of the publick has materially impaired. As to myself when I had served three years in Congress I undertook to negociate with the Indian Nations, because I deemed it my duty in consequence to those States to know those people & to view the western country. Since that I have been one of the Commissioners of the United Treasury, the duty of which is of singular difficulty at present, from the pressure of demands & the insufficient arrangements of our finances. Patience however & perseverance, with I hope overcome all the difficulties we have to encounter.

I was never more clearly of opinion in

any thing than in what your Lordship says, relative to the execution of the late treaty between G. B. & the U. S. It does most highly concern the honor & interest of both Countries to execute it faithfully. But from circumstances now existing it cannot be fulfilled in all its parts, & this gives ground to turbulent Spirits on each side for refusing to execute what is practicable. The first violation of the treaty was on the part of the Commander in Chief in New York allowing the Negroes to be carried off after the provisional Articles were agreed to; & refusing on sundry instances to suffer the American Owners who came to N. York for the purpose to take those that belong'd to them. The register he informed Congress of this having ordered to be kept of those who were carried away, is an proof of the violation of the Article, ~~without being of any use~~ not only. Because there is so little probability of its being ever made use of. The account given by the Negroes of themselves, that ~~it cannot be~~ is little probable, ~~& enabling~~ the Masters to ascertain their property. Your Lordship may well believe

their a well understood reason for those of our citizens who were endebted to british subjects to exclaim against the payment of british debts. In some States they did it effectually, particularly in Virginia, where the great loss of Negroe property ~~furnish~~ proportionably strengthned the objection. This was followed by a refusal to deliver up the posts, but retaining the garrisons which announced a settled determination to keep them. This act within the territory solemnly ceded to the U. S. & the encouragement it has given to the Indians to murder our frontier inhabitants has ~~occasion~~ occasioned great & general alarm & discontent with regard to the intentions of the british Administration.

From a variety of information & I received in the western country, it appeared clear to me, that the interest of Engl. ~~&~~ in the ~~The information from America, which I conjecture occasioned~~ fur trade was the real reason, for the detention of those posts, & that while Mr. Hammond ~~misunderstood~~, ~~& so informed~~, such representations would be made to the King's Ministers as would ~~be~~ lead them to ~~the~~ real consideration ~~of~~ it be their intention fundamentally to violate the treaty, & keep the means in their hands of working that determination. That ~~it~~ encouraged operations against the U. S. the measure may correspond with the object. But if not, it is may be termed an ~~ill~~ advised measure because it implies such intentions.

The indian nations to expect that they ~~can~~

Of the Goods
pursuant to my Ins.
following is all
yet appear.

that

J.o Bradford Com. Agent
at Boston returns 3.d April 1779
the following Acc.t of the Merchan-
dize delivered to him

Ship Queen of Sweden Capt. Green
May 3.d 1778 Bales Linen 557
Ship Henrietta P. Brown Do Do 634. pcs 162
Ship three friends Do Do 100. Chests 40
N. B. Only the Henrietta &
Three Friends Cargoes
were immediately disposed of by me

John Bra

c.' for the cargo
" supposes that it
a order of Robert
Mr [illegible] on said the cargo
of the [illegible] with the only one from her
that we can conjecture to have
been delivered on public Acct
but the pending Bills of loading prove they
were shipped to Willing, Morris & Co. Not to
the Committee or any contenental Agent.

I now remains to make some
remarks upon the preceding facts
Mr. Ross in France refuses absolutely to
let the Commissioners see the Invoices or
bills of loading for the goods which he preten-
ded to have purchased & shipped in return for the
monies advanced to him & Mr. Morris — Mr
Morris asserts the cargoes were delivered
Mr. Bradford, does pretend there are no

invoices or bills of lading
was not responsible for as
whether any of the cargoes
[redacted] U. S. Mr Brad[illegible] knows
thing of them till 1779 & then he does
not say positively that he received
any thing for the public use — Mr
Morris requests the Commercial Com-
mittee to suspend all operations til
the Invoices &c should arrive, but
having thus laid them aside he
never produces these documents
nor had they ever the disposal of
the effects. — It was not until the
year 1776 that a Mr Carlton Secy

[illegible] wrote to the present Board
[illegible] had discovered such papers
[illegible] in that office — These
papers [illegible] examined [redacted]
proved, as is stated before, that they
were shipped to Willing, Morris & Co —
Shews why they were concealed, why
Mr Rob refused to lay them before the
Commissioners, why Mr Morris pre-
tended they had not arrived & why
they were secreted so long in an
office where no one would have
thought of looking for them — In
the meantime Mr Bradford writes
on the 20th Dec[r] upon Wm still without
the Invoices of Goods received by the Hewes
& the Three Friends, I need not mention
how

how liable we shall
if orders should be giv
any part of them without Invoices"—
& again he writes— "I should be glad to
receive orders to sell at auction a
parcell of damaged Duck, Osnebrugs
& Dimpero which came in the Hero
etta, they were damaged with salt
water, I have wrote several times on
this subject but have no reply"——
These letters are pretendedly to the Com-
mercial Committee, but there does
not appear any answer from the
Committee from whence must
conclude that either they were not
sent, or that the Comm.ee having
answered the purpose Mr. Morris

but to obtain a recom-
- the tobacco to be sent to
his partner - Rose, would not interest
themselves further. —— While Mr Morris was thus active on this side, the
water, his partner Mr Ross, was not
less active nor less successful in
France — We have seen him obtain
from the Commissioners upwards
of 90,000 dollers more, & from America
several Cargos of publick property, without a single
proof of his having furnished one dol
lings worth in return. And to crown
all a balance awarded to him, is
transmitted to America, without
any account, voucher or document
of any kind, on which he received

upwards of 90,000 &
elapse & no Vouchers.
by by the Commission
Every week to D. Trees
obtain, but he cannot find
& returns only vague corp
concerning them.

4

A view of the payments & debits of the Severa States to the U. S. on the Requisitions 10 Sept. 1782 30th Oct. 1781 & 27th & 28 April 1784. 27th Sept. 1785. 2d Aug. 1786. 11th Oct. 1787. computed to the 30th June 1787.

States	Dlls paid In dents.	Spece	Indents due	Spece due
N. Hampshire		7679.8	280,363.7	244,576.74
Massachusetts	226,648.43	355,743.[illegible]	860,868.75	670,888.17
Rhode Island	[illegible]	75,711.75	153,185.16	90,816.53
Connecticut	70,598.18	172,318.87	590,678.15	419,969.59
N. York	[illegible]	39,986.75		
N. Jersey		148,521.38	396,003.57	235,300.[illegible]
Pennsylvania	434,265.70	644,612.	525,500 141.50	296,244.59
Delaware	37,876.15	30,100	72,401.41	59,368.76
Maryland		345,558.5 8,374.64	727,032.77	326,135.57
Virginia	38,231.25	527,571.48 33,171.57	1,177,901.68	533,679.39
North Carolina			552,174.86	463,906.48
South Carolina		443,244.38	284,011.	74,937.52
Georgia			74,247.41	43314.3
Total.	1,010,548.61	2,962,722.75	6,035,994.9	3,668,203.3
1787 French & Spanish	Interest in	Arrear	1,500,000	
1788		will be due	891,508.	

Sums necessary for the Govt. for
from 1st Oct. 1787 to 1st May 1788.

Anticipations to be paid	137,000	778,000
Half years expence to Jan. 1st 1788	223,000	
For 1788	418,000	

Copy of a Letter signed Benj.n Franklin Esq.r
dressed to the Honble The Commissioners of the
Board of Treasury.

Gentlemen / Philadelphia Jan.y 1.st 1788

Immediately on the receipt of your
Letter of the 14.th instant enclosing a copy of one
from Mr. Barclay to you, I caused a fresh search
to be made for the papers you require respecting the
Vouchers of Mr. Ross's Accounts deposited in my
office when in France, & after the most careful &
diligent examination nothing of the kind is found
in my possession. When I was about to leave
that Kingdom, I ordered all papers relating to the
public Accounts & every thing deposited in the
ex Consul (I having acted in that capacity before
Mr. Barclay's arrival) to be put into his hands
which was done.

I cannot therefore but be of opinion
that tho he may not have taken notice of those
Vouchers, nothing having required his advertency
to them, yet they will be found with the other
papers of his office when these shall arrive
in America.

I have however enquired of Mr.
Ross, whether he cannot supply the deficiency
& he informs me, that he has an authentical
copy which he is ready to produce if necessary
but as he sent four similar copies by

four different Ships all of which arrivd safe ~~Hdlv~~ delivered their respective Cargoes of the Goods to the Commercial Committee, he is very sure some of these Copies must still exist & may be found among the Papers of that Committee.

I have the honor to be
with great regard, Gentlemen,
Y.r most obed.t & &c &c
B. Franklin

Paris 12 Jany 68

My dear Sir

Votre lettre du 10 novembre ma fait un plaisir infini. Je trouvais pénible la privation de vos nouvelles, j'ay supposé cependant que vous étiez en bonne santé parce que je n'en suis informé dans toutes les occasions que j'ay trouvées

Je vous fais mille remerciemens de ce que vous vous êtes chargé. Je n'avois aucune idée exacte de ce que je pouvois vous savez combien on doit peu compter sur ce qui se dit. Si vous pouvez sans peine m'envoyer quelques autres passeports de la même espece que ceux que vous m'avez cy devant procuré, vous me ferez un plaisir infini.

Je suis il y a deux ans en Angleterre, et j'ai encore passé l'été et il n'y a que 15 jours que je suis revenu. J'ay passé beaucoup de tems a Bowood le reste a Wycombe. Dont le Berrugh par suivant toute apparence, appartenoit bientot en entier a Mylord Lansdowne. Wallet a qui une moitié appartenoit a derangé ses affaires et est entierement en derouté. Nous avons beaucoup parlé de vous, la mere de la maison et moi. Son fils en cy depuis peu d'un an, un jeune homme d'une grande distinction. Son Pere en la Cour, occupé et avec raison.

nous avons aussi icy beaucoup d'affaires. celle qui occupe aujourd'huy est celle des non Catholiques, on a voulu employer cette expression qui etablit la tolerance la plus etendue. l'edit que le Roy a donné fut presenté hier au Parlement et accepté quelques modifications près très raisonnables a demander — Ils seront cependant exclus des Charges de Judicature et n'auront point de Culte public, c'est a dire d'Eglise, ils auront des Chapelles, comme les Catholiques en Angleterre.

Adieu; my dear sir, de vos nouvelles de tems en tems Je vous prie; vous etes sur de tirer celle que j'y prends. mais souvenez vous qu'il ne faut pas etre effrayé des Lettres, lorsqu'on est aussi eloignés que nous le sommes il faut savoir lecrire au bout de deux ans, Comme s'il n'y avoit que 15 jours qu'on l'eut fait

Count Sarsfield
1708

Statement of the Revenues & Ordinary Expenditures of the Commonwealth of Virginia arising from the Revenue of 1786 payable by Law in the year 1787 — ordered to be published by the House of Delegates Jan.y 7.th 1788

The tax on Land & Lots being 1½ pr.ct thereon ad valorem amounts to		£ 98,636,14,1
111,185 Blacks above the age of 16, a 10/ each		55,592,10.
123678 Do. under the age of 16 d Do		61839,
1863 Do. age not ascertaind a Do		931,
236726 Negroes of all ages.		
59207 white Males above the age of 21 a Do.		29603.
181759 Horses Mares Mules & Colts a 2/ each		18175,18
536 Stud Horses a one Cover each		494, 6.6
486469 neat Cattle of all ages a 3. each		6084,17.3
5674 Carriage wheels a 6/ each		1702,4
224 Ordinary licenses a £5		1120,
11 Billiard Tables a £15 each		165.
Total Gross Amount of Taxes		£ 274,361,9,10
Deduct for Collect.rs 6 p.ct	13717,14,5	
Clerks Insolvents & Arrears a £100 pr County	7300	21,017,1,5
		£ 253,324.8.5.
Tonnage nett	11.002,9.	
Salt, Spirits Wine Malt Liquors, Cordage, Cheese, Snuff, tea, Sugar & Coffee nett		24,220,7,4,¼.
2½ pr.ct duty on £779457,6,11. worth of Goods imported		19,291,11,3.
2 pr.ct on £169,906,13,8. worth of Goods & Wares		3365,14,8.
1 each for 9450 Seamen for collect.g Sea Hospital		464, 2,10
		58371,5,1¼ carried over

Brot over £ 83 7 1, 5, 1¼ . £ 253,3248,5.

Tobacco exported duty on Nett. 21727, 3, 9¾.

Law proceeds & Alienations Nett. 7205. 17, 11, ½.

87,277,6,10½

Nett amount of Specie Revenue for 1786. £340, 601, 15, 3½

Expenditures for the same year

State paper funded Intst. £ 334, 12. 6.

Military Certificates Do —— 57738, 14. 11.

Military Pensioners —— 3345, 18. 4.

Salaries of the fixed Officers 14926, 4. 7

Assembly pay & Expence 9165, 10, 1

Criminl. Prosecutions — 5581, 16, 7

Warrants for Slaves executed &c. 191. 19.

Arsenal at point fork —— 1918, 9. 7.

State Boats —— 1075, 14, 7

Members of Congress —— 2534, 14,

State Shares in the

James & Potomac Canals. 2588, 6

[redacted] Office debt Intst. — 6,500.

Contingencies —— 5990, 9. 6

Total exclusive of the Requisitions of

Congress ———— £ 113,607, 5, 8.

Amount of the Certificate tax

for the same year Nett £ 164, 266, 3. 8.

Militia & Impress Certificate Account.

Issued	£710,972,11,
Redeemd 1704 — 169,445,4,10	
Do. — 1705 — 165,035,5,	
Do. — 1706 — 165000.	
Do. — 1707 — 164 266, 3.8	
Total redeemd	663,746,13,6½
Balance to be redeemd	47,225,7,5½

Extract from the Journal sign'd J. Beckley C.H.D. of Virg.

Remarks on the preceding by J. Hopkins L. Officer for Virginia 1796.

There is at present no tax on white Males or on Slaves under the age of 16.

The Duty on Tob.° exported must have greatly exceeded the Statement as £16,000 for in no period was the duty less than 10/ p.r hh.d this some instances 16/

To supply the deficiency of the white male & young Negro taxes New taxes were laid vid: Act imposing new taxes — But these must have fallen short of supplying the Deficiency in a very great degree

Further respects this Statement may be proper enough —

Remarks on the whole by R. Lee

The preceding Statement is not clear & therefore is deceptious. For instance. From it an uninformed Reader would suppose that as the Revenue is stated at £340,601,15,3
The Expenditure at ——— 113,687,5.8
There would be a balance in the Treasury £226,914,9,7

Yet in fact the Treasury did not
would not pay the demands on it of the kind
: nor the Interest on the Mil.y Certificates
: any Interest at all on the L. Office debt,
& the Assembly ad every Session authorised the issuing warrants for payments which Warrants were made receivable in taxes as Specie. in the next years tax. As to the State L. Office debt no Interest has ever been paid upon it. This deception would have been avoided, had the Statement been in Collumns for Revenue estimated—
[redacted] actually received — Payments
due — Do actually made — Specie
— Certificates ———
The Requisition from the State by Congress for 1780 was £120126 — The Military Certificate debt was 4 for the pound — Had the above been a just Statement they might have paid the whole of the Requisition — yet they did not pay one half — & might have sunk £530,600 of their Certificate debt ——— which is more than one half —
A. Lee

(N° 411)

My dear Brother. Alexandria Feb. 19 1788

After waiting four days at Col. Masons, in hopes of a passage there over the river, I set forward for Georgetown & learn here that the passage is impracticable there. There is such an aggregation of Ice both there & that nothing but a general thaw will enable me to cross, & the same thaw will render the roads almost impassable, so that my prospect is bad.

Col. Mason laments very much, that you did not stand for the Convention. He says there will be no one in whom he can confide. That you will be regarded by many as having deserted a cause in which you have published your persuasion of it's being of the last moment to your Country. That this belief is strengthened by a report which some of your friends have propagated, that you have given up all idea of opposing the Constitution because your friends think differently, & have recommended two or three Constitutional acts to the freeholders of Westmoreland. He is afraid these things will injure your character so much, that another general Convention should be ordered, you will not be among the Delegates which he should consider as a misfortune to the Country. His opinion is that the Convention will recommend another general Convention.

I mention these things to you for your consideration. You might certainly be chosen in Hanover, were you to declare yourself. I confess I wish to see you elected whether you serve or not, & cannot but think you might board within a few miles of Rich-

Richmond & by going there in the day only, avoid all risque of its unhealthy rays. I have no hopes either in Stafford or Prince William, & have therefore given up the pursuit.

The ice keeps the northern mail at Georgetown, so that there are no late advices from the northward. The Debates in the Massachusetts Convention, run high & the determination is uncertain. Hancock pretends to be sick, that he may not have a decisive vote till he is clear there is a majority for it; which it is to be apprehended will be obtained by the intrigues in Boston, which Hancock, King & Gorham are pretty adept in managing.

Give my love to all with you, take care of your health & spirits Randolph. Innes tell Monroe is painting, & that every thing else is at a stand, & seems much to want his presence.

Adieu A. Lee

A. Lee

W.

A. Lee

Boarding & Lodging for Brigade Major Hoare 2 Horses forage 3 Servants 3 Journeys 1/6

Gen. Henry Lee Esqr.
Charlotte

Thomas
Col. Lee
Aide de Camp

19 Feb. 1788
(Charlotte)

No 157

II 41

History of the Revolution.

Richard Bland Lee had a project of writing this history, and was favored in it by Gen. Mosth.n — see Lee's letter in L. — March 25. '88.

Dear Sir, Chantilly July the 8th 1798

I have the honor to enclose for your consideration and signature, papers relative to our execution of the trust reposed in us for selling Mr. Booths Land and finishing other business. The parties are very desirous to have this business so finished, and I have no doubt but that the saving clause, and the provision at the end of the deed, will secure the conveyance perfectly safe for us. You will please to observe that young Mr. Booths letter requests us to convey to R. Lee, but circumstances in that family, induce me to think, rendew this improper. It is this however that causes Mr. Charles Lee in his letter enclosed to say "I expect Mr. H. A. Booth will give his direction for conveying to Irish L. A. Lee instead of R Lee" "Till such direction be given by Mr. H. A. Booth I presume the Trustees will forbear to execute the deed" This circumstance, together with Mr. Beales letter also enclosed, render two things necessary to be observed,

before

before the deed shall be marked with by you – the one is, that Mr. W. A. Booth signify his assent to the alienation of the conveyance, and also that Mr. Brooke Beall certify his receipt of the ballance due on this purchase, as requested in his brother Mr. J. Beall's letter.

I wish that the late excessive rain may not have injured your crops nearly as much this year, as did the drought of last summer.

This family join me in presenting respectful compliments to your Lady.

I have the honor to be, with every sentiment of esteem and regard, dear Sir your affectionate and obedient Servant

Richard Henry Lee

Gentlemen/ Philadelphia Aug.2.1790

On my return from Virginia to this City, some days ago, I had the honor to receive your Letter of the 7th of last month, with a copy of the Act of Congress of the 2d. enclosed therein. The Accounts & Vouchers regarding me by this Act, have never been in my possession nor have I ever seen them, altho upon enquiry I find that the trunk or box containing such of them as were delivered to Mr. Rose in France, now in his care. I shall receive the same from him, & as I shall wait on your Board as soon as it is in my power for the purpose of settling all Accounts in which I am concerted, on the United States

I wish being with me these papers
in order that the late Mr. Thos.
Morris's Accounts may be ad-
-justed. My absence from home
for above eight months past
makes my presence here indis-
pensibly necessary for some time
to come, otherwise I would set
out immediately, but the delay
shall be as short as possible.

The Hon^ble
Sam^l Osgood
Walter Livingston
Arthur Lee Esq^rs
New York

I have the honor
to be with great respect
Gentlemen
Your most
Obed^t Hble Serv^t
Rob^t Morris

True Copy A. Lee

(N° 412)

My dear Sir, Newyork august 10th 88.

We have the pleasure of having received
last week your letter of the 20th July, but
our joy is much diminished by the infor-
mation it contains, relative to your own
health. We hope sincerely that ere this
you have recovered from the severe fit
under which you laboured when you wrote
your letter & that it has concluded this
visit of the gout. your account of
the prospect of our crops is very
pleasing but since the date of this
intelligence, has happend the accident
known, whose effects I so much ap-
prehended, & of which I have not
yet heard. Whenever you see Carter
pray press him to make amble
provision of hay for winter use,

& when you see Porter urge him to finish my house in due season for our return, which will be in October.

[Congress are yet engaged concerning the temporary residence of the Federal Govt. — It will probably succeed notwithstanding the ardent love which so many bear to Philada. & therefore Potomac will have a good chance for the permanent residence — at all events I think that the ten miles Square will be to the South of the Susquehanah which will affect in consequences very much the trade of the Chesapeake —]

Mrs Lee desires me to tell you expressly that she has undergone

a change much for the better, Mrs. She feels the most grateful sense of your constant endeavors to restore her health & that she hopes to be able to manifest for a length of years the love she bears to you, to her aunt & her other friends of Clarksville - & Henry believed — adieu, most truly yours — D. Hill

Mr. Lee is unwell this morning the burning & tingling has returned —

H Lee

No 258

Richard Henry Lee esqr.

New York Sept.r 6th 1788

(N.o 41?)

Sir

The very favorable reception I experienced from you on my first arrival in this country will ever be fresh in my memory but there is one circumstance respecting it which I could wish to recall to your recollection. You was I believe one of the Committee appointed by the Congress at York Town to inquire into the motives that brought me to this country, to find out if I had made any stipulation with the Commiss.rs in Europe and on what terms I expected to serve the United States. D.r Witherspoon was Chairman of this Committee. To render unnecessary a repetition of what passed at this interview I take the liberty to inclose to you a small pamphlet at the beginning of which you will find a narration drawn from my Journal. to the truth of this D.r Witherspoon Mess.rs Gerry, Dane & Peters &c &c have subscribed but as it is

Franc.s L.: Lee Esq.r

Baron Steuben To Fr. L. Lee.
2 letters 6 Sept. 1788
(No 415) (Book 44)

of the utmost consequence to me not to leave the least doubt remaining on this subject. I must request the favor of you to read it and to honor me with your testimony so far as your recollection of what passed at the time will enable you.

I take the liberty to solicit an answer as speedily as possible, and have the honor to be with the most perfect esteem

Sir

Your very humble and

Obedient Servant

Steuben

No 414

Oct. 5. 1788

My dear Uncle

I have been a thousand times prevented from writing to you when I had almost taken the pen in my hand for the purpose. I hope you are persuaded that I owe you be much ever to neglect writing to you without a sufficient cause. I am much chagrin'd, that you debar me of your charming letters, in consequence of my neglect, they always confer so much happiness that you should never withhold them, mind on the contrary must be to you so insisted that you cannot regret their loss. We have just received a volume from your delightful Nephew my brother giving me an account of his tour thro Holland. He has already visited the most principal places with much satisfaction. I was at Charlbury when he took leave— Dorset in regimentals, as Major L—,

but was much at loss when the princesses at Herrenhausen desired him to inform them the name of the regiment to which he belonged with the names of his Col.ls Switzerland was the place he intended to visit next.

We are beginning to emerge from our state of dulness & lethargy, & are determined to be gay, private parties, Ensembles, small concerts, &c have already commenced, in spite of the cruelty of your Congress. we will be joyous & happy. Inclose a letter to the Old Lady from Peggy written by herself, she plays several tunes on the piano & speaks french like an Angel— She is vastly improved & grows exceedingly handsome. Adieu! love me because you ought, since I am as I have been & always shall be, your dutiful

and affect.e niece

Philadelphia oct.r 5 88— Anna M. Livingston—

Office of accounts, Comy. Dept.

Sir New York Oct. 20th 1788.

I cannot answer your question with any degree of accuracy. I have no accounts for the purchase of Flour after January 1781 the Army after that time was supplied by a bank established at Philadelphia for that purpose, and a specific tax collected in the several states. The last purchases were in Nov. 1780. by Col. Blaine: he gave in Philadelphia £120, pr. Cwt. and £6, for each Cask, which at the rate of exchange at that time will be £33 90 Dollars pr. Cwt. Specie. A Bbl contained about 1 Cwt 3 Qrs 14 lb which at the above rate will be nearly 8 Dollars pr. Barrel. Transportation by land cost about 2½ Penn. Curry. pr. Mile for each Barl. Purchases were made in Baltimore in the same month one third cheaper viz. £80. Continental all money pr. Cwt.

I am
Sir
your Most Obedient
Humble Servt.

The Hon.ble Arthur Lee Esqr. Jon.a Burrall

Jonathan Burrall Atty
(Comm[r]s Deft
Oct. 20th. 1788.

Rec[d] 1788
Bunnell on
Re Suit 7
Klein vs Yeo

The Hon[ble] Arthur Lee Esq[r]

Dr Sr Richmd Oct. 22 1788

Phila McClean

Not lightly unadvisedly or wantonly did I take up my opinion with regard to the new Constitution, and however matured I considered those opinions in my own mind, I fear so they have needed great additional strength to form their concurrence with those of so many of my Friends, who have long been numbered among the first and most active Patriots whom Devotion this Cause of our fellow Citizens I presume Sr that I need not mention one who has borne the highest honors as well as the most heavy Burthens, incident to and consequent on our virtuous and well meant struggle. A uniform consentaneity of political opinions grounded on and growing out of a Basis which is the surest foundation of political happiness for a Government in which the Essential dispute of a free People are well secured, has united together and calls loudly on us to strengthen those Bonds which may enable us together to stem the Torrent, which like fire to tear down every thing before it

B 037 1788

the Virtuous Principles which have dictated our
political opinions. I trust do still remain in
full vigor in the breasts of some of us. and will
I hope lead us to exertions which will in the
end render that government secure and harmless
which in its outset threatens Tyranny and op-
pression. This I in my humble apprehension
can only be done by men ~~and Impressed~~
wedded to freedom and the rights of men, and
by measures carried on in concert and steadily
opposed to whatever shall tend to trample on
those rights. Convinced as I am of that you
hold these principles you may be well as-
sured that my exertions will not be wanting
to place you in those councils, where your
Experience, abilities, and Inclination will I hope
cooperate to introduce those amendments which
can alone render the new Government tole-
rable, and which I believe the far greater
part of the People of the United States wish
to see adopted. Nothing of Consequence has
yet been done this Session. I have not yet
thought much on the Business now before the

house, but the first Blush of that part of it which relates to the Congressional requisitions of men, Money &c. of the old Congress I confess strikes me disagreeably. how can men, money, &c. be demanded by a Body which died in June last without leaving a last Will and Testament: on what principle can one Government exist, when another is declared to be established in lieu of it: but it may be said that such Dead, are the Will of Mal-contents. Is not this a assumption of power which they have parted with. suppose they ch? take it in their head to reconsider and repeal their act for putting the new government in motion? would they not have as good, nay a better right than they have after an abdication of their right to oppose ~~to do this~~ to assume that right and by the bye it is somewhat curious that not one state in the Union as far as I can learn has satisfied that resolution of the Convention, which vests a right in the old Congress to put the new Government in motion. there will doubts and difficulties arise at the threshold of this Business. and while an actual Interregnum prevails. a kind of

(№ 414) (~~№ 37~~)

these governments is carrying on the most important ~~transactions~~ transactions of a real one - The state of the Parties of the present Session appears to me to resemble a large Indolent tumor that is not yet ripened to a head - it contains much matter which wants an issue but the Political Surgeons seem fearfull to cut into it least they should wound some great vital organ - we have however taken possession of the Capitol - the Chief ~~Magistrate~~ has (tho not Publickly) announced his resolution to retire from the helm, and take a birth among the Crew - where he talks of steering the mariners either to turn the Ballast of the new Government or shift the Ships about - this is all the intelligence of Importance I am at present able to communicate to you & therefore hope you will be satisfied with that as well as that you will be assured that I am with perfect Esteem D.r Sir

Yr. obed.t Ser.t

Thos. Blake

Dr. Jr (Virginia) Nov 9. 1788

It is with real pleasure that I congratulate you on your appointment to the Senate of the present which not a few manoeuvres were played off— the Gentlemen of the federal Side of the question— I mean the non Federalists or Anti's finding themselves Shut of the Lions Skin with great dexterity put on the Foxes tail but neither art or strength would avail them & the Ballots stood for Mr. Rh. H. Lee 98 — for Mr. William Grayson 86 for Mr. James Madison 77 and the two first having the majority of both Houses were declared duely Elected— In your St. does the Majority of your Country appear as active, as strenuous & as steady to procure for those Amendments without which little good and much evil I fear will be its portion—

You no doubt will have seen the artfull substitute (for the proposed application to Congress) Calculated to oppose & Irritate, our sister States, in requiring nothing to ratify the adoption of our Ideas in toto and an absolute conformity in all their acts untill such adoption shall take place, which altho it was in the teeth of their own Arguments against previous amendments was supported strongly in opposition to those which were adopted for calling a Convention— The Applications Sound on those resolutions for calling a Convention will

probably be brought forward this day, and will I think speak the clear and decided language of this State the Bill for choosing a President has passed the Delegates and that for choosing representatives is in great forward ways— much pains is taken to lay off the districts so as to include the most commercial non Emendatory but I expect that this Bill which is almost entirely of their carving— will be hashed up and served out to the Public in a more Palatable ~~manner~~ form than it at present appears in— as you have once more honord me with your Correspondence I shall presume on a continuance of it whenever any event worth communicating shall come under your Cognizance in yr Public Character assuring you at the same time of a reciprocity, and that in your Private one it will ever afford much pleasure to hear from you to one who is with the greatest Esteem &c &c.

Yr Friend & Obd. Sr

Thos. Jr. Bland

Nov 9th 1788

Theodrick Bland
4 letters
(Copy Mss in this)
~~4 to 31~~

Mr Bland
1788 (№ 415)

~~4 to 31.~~

Nov. 9. 1788
Col. Bland

Mr Madison

Richd Henry Lee Esqr

Mr Hawkins

Mr Grayson

1780 Ohio & Mis Branches

From the Land of John Chenoweth in Hampshire, acrop Mainstone
Cape Capon river to the land of James Largent opposite 0-4.0-4
Do. of Dudley Evans acrop the Monongalia, to the land of
Rice Bullock opposite 0-3.0-3
Do. of David Chambers, Ohio County, acrop the Ohio, to the opposite
0-6.0-6
Elias Poston, Hampshire, acrop Cape Capon, to his land opposite 0-4.0-4
Virgil Cox Ohio County, acrop the Ohio to the opposite shore 0-6.0-6
John James, Ohio County, acrop the Ohio to the opposite shore 0-6.0-6
of Vansweringen, Ohio County, acrop the Ohio to the opposite shore. 0-6.0-6
Do. of Absalum Wells, Ohio County, acrop the Ohio to the opposite shore. 0-6.0-6
Do. of Reason Pomphrey, Ohio County, acrop the Ohio to the opposite shore. 0-6.0-6
Do. Jonas Menser, Ohio County, acrop the Ohio to the opposite shore. 0-6.0-6
Do. of Jese Martin acrop Monongalia river to James Hords shore 0-3.0-3
Do. Do. acrop Do. to the shore of David Scot 0-3.0-3
Do. of James Cleland, Monongalia, acrop Cheat river 0-3.0-3
Do. of Andrew Ramsay, Do. Do. to the land of Willm Morgan 0-3.0-3

	man	Hors
Do of Robt Wood, Ohio, cross the Ohio, opposite	0—6.	0—6
Do of John Henderson, Ohio, cross the Ohio, opposite	0—6.	0—6
Do of Isaac Williams, Harrison, cross the Ohio, above the mouth of Muskingum	—6.	0—6
Do of Josiah Prichet, Monongalia, cross the Monongahela, opposite	0—3.	0—3
Do of Samuel Morton, Monong.a, cross big Sandy Creek to the Kanawha Commissioners	0—3.	0—3
Do of Jacob Bausman over the Monongale to Pittsburg	1½—	1½

1776

To the FREEHOLDERS of the Counties of GLOUCESTER, MIDDLESEX, ESSEX, KING and QUEEN, KING WILLIAM, CAROLINE, WESTMORELAND, RICHMOND, NORTHUMBERLAND, and LANCASTER:

WOODBERRY, in Richmond County.

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN I offer myſelf, as a Candidate to repreſent you in the General Congreſs of the United States, I think it proper to declare the Principles, which ſhall govern my Conduct, if I have the Honour of being elected.

In my Mind, it is the Duty of every good Man to ſubmit to the Determination of the Majority of his Fellow-Citizens; and therefore, although in my Judgement, the Conſtitution required Amendments, previous to its Adoption, yet I ſhall always think it incumbent on me to ſupport what the Convention—after a full and fair Diſcuſſion—has adopted, until it ſhall be altered in the Mode which the Conſtitution itſelf points out.

For the ſame Reaſon, I ſhall deem it my Duty to uſe every Effort for obtaining thoſe Amendments, which have been ſanctioned by ſo great a Majority of the Convention, and by almoſt the unanimous Senſe of the General Aſſembly. There is every Reaſon to hope, that the new Conſtitution—ſo amended as to remove the Apprehenſions and ſecure the Confidence of the People—will promote our Intereſts at home, and our Reſpectibility abroad. But this will very much depend upon the Laws and Regulations of the firſt Congreſs, and the Train of Adminiſtration in which they place the new Government.

After twelve Years public Employment in the high and confidential Offices of Government, both at home and abroad, it may be permitted me to hope, that I, in ſome Meaſure, merit the Confidence of my Country, both as to Diſcernment of what is uſeful to the Public, and Integrity to purſue it.——Upon this Hope, and upon the Principles I have declared, I muſt reſt the Succeſs of my Election:—But whatever may be your Determination, Gentlemen, I ſhall always wiſh the Proſperity of the People, under the new Government, and endeavour to promote, as far as may be in my Power, the particular Intereſts of this Diſtrict.

I have the Honour to be, with the greateſt Reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient Servant,

ARTHUR LEE.

FREDERICKSBURG: *Printed by* T. GREEN & COMP. *near the Poſt-Office.*

Adel's address To Freeholders.

Just Papers

R. Lee's address

Cambridge 9th July 1789

My dear Sir

(327)

I am sure you will believe me, when I inform you, that it gave me the highest satisfaction to hear that you & your colleague were appointed members of the federal Senate. I have much to say to you upon the present state of our public affairs, but shall wave them at present to inform you that our friend the Honble Mr Izard wishes to fill the office of Secretary to the Senate, & that from a long acquaintance with him, I think him, as well on account of his early attachment to the cause of America previous to the war, & of his services during it, as of his diligence integrity & abilities, a candidate who will do the highest honor & justice to the office if conferred on him. indeed I most sincerely wish it, because he is amongst the number of unfortunates who have suffered by the war & has an expensive but worthy family. if he should not succeed in this, which I hope he will, perhaps you may promote some other appoint-

-ment which

which will be equally beneficial to them ..

I have only time to inform you that Mrs
Gray joins me in sincere regards to yourself
Mrs Megee, & ladies & be assured I am with
the highest respect your
friend & humble Servt
E Gray

330

Honble

Richard Henry Lee Esq

Member of the Federal Senate

at Newyork

Hon.ble Richard Henry Lee Esqr 1789 Feb.y 20. to the
(No 416) from Mr Bourne

Sir

The Bearer Mr Bourne has been told by Gentlemen of the highest Character here that to be the Bearer of a Letter from me to you would be of Service to him. If they meant that I have any Influence with you, tho they have fed my Pride, yet I should not have been led to write on that poor ground; But if they meant, as I believe they did, that it was no Matter how Mr Bourne got within the Focus of your Benevolence provided he put in fact reach it, I join with them in Opinion and proceed to say that this Gentleman was once my Pupil, is of a good Family & Reputation has an Intention to go to France upon private Business and thinks he can render public Service. He will explain

his Views in thus applying to me, and you will not disappoint his Expectations I am sure, if they are just and tend in any measure to promote the publick Good.—

Down Curtains — Off Mask —

I snapped at Mr Baume's Request, glad of so good an Opportunity to make known to You, my much esteemed Friend, my own Pursuits for an honest livelyhood on the Tenure of good Behaviour instead of one upon the tottering Foundation of an annual Choice liable to every petty & unfair Art of Electioneering. I was treated in such a Manner when Naval Officer of this Port that I shall carry the Memory of the Injustice to my Grave. I am now, as Collector, happy in having the Protection of the Senate which gives continued Support to continued Fidelity. It is supposed that the New federal Government will annihilate the State Collectorships. And it is quite uncertain whether my present Office or, the one in which it shall be involved will be filled by Nomination of the President general by advice & Consent of the Senate,

or by a Delegated Authority given to the Heads of Departments. In the first Case I have every Hope; in the latter I am almost without a Ray. You will be made acquainted with the Grounds of this Assertion, more particularly hereafter; I shall only now say, in general, that knowing to whom I must apply, and being determined never to accept an Employment from such Men but when I can best serve the Public in the particular Line of Application I know; I hit the Rule which they will establish for their own Guides.

a mention of my Wishes & Hopes at this Time may appear premature, but as Mr Gorham & his nearest Friends openly speak of his Solicitation for my present Employment and boast of the indubitable Preference he will have to all other Candidates, it would be a Sort of Self Murder in me not to declare my Hopes to you and others who know me, that I may have the Chance of being at least fairly weighed, tho it may be my Misfortune finally to be found Wanting.

With habituated affectionate Esteem
I am Sir, your Friend & Servt
James Lovell

(No 416)

Jas. Lovell Mass
12
12 Sellers

Mr friend
James Lovell
Esq. Boston
Feb 6th 79
Answd. 26 April
1779

Honorable
Richard Henry Lee
Esq.
Philadelphia

Favor

(№ 417)

at a meeting of the Trustees of the Fredericksburg Academy on monday the 26th day of Jan.y 1789 —

present — James Mercer P.
Mann Page V.P. George Weedon
Wm. Fitzhugh Lawrence Brooke &
Charles Carter Thos. Fitzhugh Esqrs

It now appearing to the Trustees that there are but 228 Tickets disposed of in the second Class of the Lottery — they are constrained once more to put off the drawing thereof to a Season that will enable the Trustees to procure money for the Tickets which may then be unsold — which the Trustees present do oblige themselves to take at their common risque as in the first Class —

Resolved that the drawing of the second Class be postponed untill the 2d monday of April next (the sitting of the District Court in this Town) and then to be drawn at all events —

Resolved that the absent Trustees, be consulted whether they will participate in the risque of taking the unsold Tickets at the time of drawing and that in Case they do agree that they provide money at that day —

Resolved that the President do write to the Hon.ble Richard H. Lee and Coll.o Henry Lee, representing to them, that in Case their publick or domestic business will prevent their attendance as Trustees — that the Act of Assembly for appointing Trustees, admits of a Resignation, and that in Case they incline so to do, that they be pleased to communicate their Intention by Letter to the President to be preserved among the Academy papers —.

a true Copy

Jas. Mercer President —

Sir —

(No 41 in) Virginia mch 5th. 17[illegible] — 1789

It falls to my Lot as President of the Trustees of the Fredericksburg academy to execute their orders in communicating the enclosed Resolves, to which I beg your attention & reply as soon as may be — I have the pleasure of informing you that our Academy now bids fair to reward our endeavours by becoming a public & lasting benefit — there being 73 Scholars therein and a moral certainty of many more, this will defray its own expences & the arrears are all that is interesting to us as to money matters and this we hope the Lottery will supply —

With real esteem I am Sir

Your very humble Servant

Jno Mercer

(No 717)

Judge Marcer
abt Fredericksb.
academy

Answered 13 April
1809

Free

The Hon.ble
Richard H. Lee
Congress
New-york —

1784

Menohin March 30th 1789

Dear Sir,

I was unhappy in not finding you at home twice when I waited upon you, wishing to pay my Personal respects to you, and to know if you intended to send your Vessel to Baltimore any time next month, as in my present situation, I think it would be most commodeious for me to go as far as I can by Water to Philadelphia. be so good therefore as to inform me by the Bearer if y.r Vessel is to go to Baltimore any time next month. when she will Sail, and if I can be accommodated with a Passage on Board for my-self and my Servant. about three Weeks from this, would be the most commodeious time for me and I should like to take Shiping at Pecatone, if it is attended with no inconvenience to the Vessel. I am D.r Sir with the highest Respect - Your Hble Servant

W.m Lee

M. Mann. &c
17 March. 1789

To

The Hon^ble Robert Carter
of
Nomony Hall

№ 419.

Charleston March 30: 1789.

Dear Sir

This will be delivered you by Mr. Smith one of the members for this State in the house of Representatives. — I take the liberty of introducing him to you not only as a near relation of mine but as a well informed & accomplished gentleman and as one whom I have no doubt will make a valuable member of that body

With my compliments to your brother I remain my dear Sir Your's truly

Charles Pinckney

To

The Honorable Richard Henry Lee

(№ 419)

Chas Pinckney
(Gov. of Sou. Carolina)
March 30th 1789

Recd 18th May

(347)

Gov. Pinckney.

The whole amount Anticipated on the Receivers of Taxes by the
Superintendant of Finance Was ..... 153..

Which was paid between the 1st Nov.r 1784 the day on
which the Superintendant of Finance closed his admi-
nistration & the 21st April 1785. the Day on which
the Commissioners of the Board of Treasury began
to act as appears by the Public Accounts rendered
to Congress for that Period ..... 58..065..42
from 21st April 1785 to the present time
as per foregoing Statement ..... 2,367 41 60..432..83

Leaves to be provided for as above 93..463..22

		Dollars.	Cents.
	Amount brought forward	1827261.	67
21st to March 31. (a)	By so much paid Mr. John Wheelock President of Dartmouth College, the same having been received on the Commissioners of the Loan in Holland, for the use of said College, and credited by them in account with the United States	76.	41
"	By the Estate of Major General Lee deceased for so much more received of Robert Morris Esqr. than was due from the Estate, and which has been repaid to his Executor	1717.	22
"	By the Payment of Interest on the Domestic Debt in Interest Indents — for so much paid from 1st Jany 1785 to 31st March — 1789	1530.	011/3
"	By Domestic Debt. — For so much thereof discharged being Certificates which had been issued by Edwd Thurn Esqr. Commissioner for the State of Rhode Island, in paymt. to the Contractors & Conductors of Ox Teams, taken up by the State & paid into the United States Treasury on acco. of their Quota of Specie Requisitions, agreably to act of Congress of 16th February 1783	12.230.	63/8
	Dollars ...	3380306.	37

Treasury of the United States
Registers Office 1st April 1789.

Joseph Nourse
Register

Dollars.

Contra 113,626. 28.
Do. 93.463. 22.

207,089. 50/90 1 April 1789

My dear Sir (No 364) April 6 [1787] [1812]

I wished to confer with you yesterday on the subject of Mr Otis's appointment to the clerkship of the Senate, but was prevented by the collecting of your friends. I desire not to interfere in matters belonging to your department, but there is a necessity of a co-operation with one of the members of the two branches as wish to preserve the independence of both: for otherwise they will be engines in the hands of a legislative faction. The mode proposed to elect the clerk has I think this tendency; for if the Senate should elect the late Secretary, when everyone knows he would serve at the pleasure of the Senate with Leave the appointment of the clerk. Should you proceed to a direct election Mr Otis will in all probability have the choice

Hon[ble] Mr Lee

for he learned doubt of the votes of Mr Wingate Mr
Strong, Mr patterson Doctor Elmer Mr Dew &
Mr Langdon: & he hopes you will not be indifferent
to him. be this as it may, & hope the matter will
so conducted as to have a direct vote, that if the
sense of the Senate is in favour of Mr Otis, they may
not be unconstitutionally controuled: & if it is not,
Jonn sure he will chearfully acquiesce in the deci-
sion. one word as to his claims. he is a bro-
ther of James Otis Esqr, one of the first oppposers of
the British System. he has been Speaker of our House,
Chairman of Congress, has had a liberal education,
& been ever reputed upright industrious & faithful.
his honor will always secure his impartiality, &
with a large genteel family, he has been so unfor-
tunate as to loose almost all his property.
Think there are considerations which will have
some weight: how much they ought to have is

with the Senate to determine. I am with

sentiments of respect my dear Sir your

most obed Servt

Elbridge Gerry

Monday Morning

8 March

please favour me with a line of your Lawyer

read this.

E. Gerry

(No 367)

E. Gerry
April 6th

(No 74

C+

Stuttgart April 6. 1909.

Dear Sir. On the Sunday the night after leaving Mr. Vance
on this line, where I may expect to find that a quorum
of the Senate was not obtained, and but a small majority
of Representatives. On this day we went to the city, there
was great satisfaction shewn a unanimous vote of
the electing State in favor of calling you to the honorable
office of Pres. of the U.S. Before this favor I judged it
might not be acceptable to speak my sentiments to you
on this subject; but now I hope I may be permitted to
express my ardent hope that you in declining may co-
operate with the United will of the nation, that you
should preside over these councils which you have been
partly instrumental in rendering independent. Indeed I
am sure that the public happiness which I know you
have so much at heart will be very insecure
without your acceptance.

I shall have but little more
time preceding to other preparations for my departure
from, that it may be in all possible forwardness
against your arrival. That of procuring the passport
at the Spring

seems to be the most proper.

An Express goes also to the Adams to inform him of this election to immediately the Office of Vice President. I pray to be remembered to your Lady & the family as to best wishes.

With every sentiment of respect,
I am D.r Sir, Your most Obed.t
Richard Henry Lee.

Sir (f. 220) Richmond April 10. 1789.

Having been the Loan Officer of the United States in the State of Virginia since the Year 1780, and by a subsequent arrangment of Congress, also the Receiver of Continental Taxes within the State since the Year 1785, my views & habits have been formed on the expectation of holding the Office, so long as it may be necessary to the public Interest to continue it, & so long as my Conduct shall entitle me to the approbation of Government.

Should it be deemed proper to continue the Office, either under the present arrangments, or with some Modifications, I conceive it incumbent on me to Communicate to you my wishes on this subject, least my silence may be construed the effect of an inclination to withdraw from public business.

Trusting entirely to my Conduct as a Servant of the United States, which may be fully known from the Honble Board of Treasury, I feel a perfect Confidence that no

application whatever will come before you with better pretentions than that from a public servant, whose discharge of the trust reposed in him, he ventures to say has uniformly received the approbation of those under whom he acted.

I have the honor to be
with the most perfect respect & esteem
Sir
Your most obedient
humble servant

Wm Hopkins

The Honble
Richard Henry Lee
one of the Senators
from the State of
Virginia

J. Hopkins

1789 (No 420)

J. Hopkins
April 10th 89

(~~No 941~~)

~~No 941~~

Boston Mh april 1789 (334)

Sir

Your arrival in Congress gives great satisfaction to the old revolutionists of this State, while I presume to congratulate you on the subject, I wish to indulge myself the pleasure of mentioning the success of the Supporters of your old friend and Compatriot the Hon^r Samuel Adams: he has been exceedingly Mal Treated, or you would have now had him by the hand in Senate of the United States. but the votes in our late Election a sample whereof is exhibited in the Gazette inclosed will Convince how much he lives in the Esteem of his fellow Citizens.

We have a very uneasy party in this Commonwealth; composed of the Seekers of emolument under Government, and of the old antirevolutionists. they hate Democracy ~~and~~ different principles; therefor: mer because it is ever unfriendly to the ~~ense~~ of offices and the La ~~indi~~ it is.

The imprudence of this party was the sad cause of the Insurrection of our people in the year 1786. the measures their influence obtained produced that uneasiness which ended in an Insurrection. They now pant for a Rebellion because they think it would end in a standing Army and finally produce an monarchy. but our people are disposed to live quietly, and when Congress shall pay a proper attention to the amendments proposed to the general Constitution all will be easy; unless a particular partiality be shewn by the General Government to those who have affected to be the Champions of it. our people have good sense enough to know, that Anarchy must end in despotism: they have all property, that they want Law, and Government to support and protect it. they feel as freemen, and they act in that Character. however they may be despised and scandalized by men who cannot gain their confidence. they will cheerfully support a good Government.

J Sendy-

3914 Samuel Lemmon Justice Sept. 1st
he is an honest spirit and useful to his
County

My dear Friend Boston April 22. 1789.

You must not expect lengthy Letters from me for a Reason which I have heretofore given you — Possibly, however, I may trouble you with more frequent Letters. — I hope the federal Congress is vested with Powers adequate to all the great Purposes of the federal Union; and if they have such adequate Powers, no true and understanding Federalist would consent that they should be trusted with more — for more would discover the Folly of the People in their wanton Grant of Power, because it might, and considering the Disposition of the human Mind, without Doubt would be wantonly exercised to their Injury and Ruin. The Powers vested in Government by the People, the only just Source of such Powers, ought to be critically defined and well understood; lest by a Misconstruction of ambiguous Expressions, and by interested Judges too, more Power might be assumed by the Government than the People ever intended they should possess. Few Men are contented with less Power than they have a Right to exercise, the Ambition of the human Heart grasps at more. This is evinced by the Experience of all Ages. —

Will you give me Leave to mention to you the Name of Leonard Jarvis Esq.r; a Gentleman to whose agreable Acquaintance, tho he is a native of this Town,

I introduced myself by the Request of our worthy Friend General Whipple now deceased. Mr. Jarvis is a very sensible Republican, and an honest Man. He holds the Place of Comptroller General in this Commonwealth. I believe Mr Dalton can shew you a Specimen of his Industry and Accuracy in Business. It is not by his Solicitation, or even knowledge that I write this. I am induced to it, because I think that good Men living at a Distance from the Seat of the federal Government, and capable of serving the United States should be made known. —

Adieu my dear Sir.

S Adams

338

22d April 1789.

Hon. Richard Henry Lee Esq.
a Member of Senate
in Congress of the United States.
New York.

Hon. S. Adams
recommending Mr. James as
Controller of Customs
Answered

Dear Sir

L'éloignement ou nous Sommes ne nous permet pas de nous livrer a l'idée d'entretenir une correspondance suivie, ni même presque aucune. Je ne puis cependant laisser partir M Jefferson sans lui donner un mot qui me rappelle a votre Souvenir et vous dire que je n'oublie point le tems ou J'ay eu l'honneur de vous voir et que je desire fort que vos Sentimens pour moi ne soient pas plus changés que les miens pour vous.

Je voudrois Savoir aussi La Situation ou vous vous trouvez dans votre patrie, je ne doute pas que vous n'en Soyez content, Je serois tres fache que cela fut autrement, Je serai bien aise de la pouvoir de votre. Je vous ai vu Souvent mentionné dans les papiers publics

Comme Chargé de diverses commissions, mandez-
moy, Je vous prie, tous les détails dont vous croirez
pouvoir vous faire part.

Si vous voulez y ajouter quelques détails de la
politique de votre pays, vous me ferez gd plaisir.

La notre en est très différente de celle que Vous
laissez icy, Il se prépare peut être un renversement
total de ce qui existe et le danger qui accompagne
toujours les Sortes de révolutions est d'autant plus
grand que cette nation en a Sa propre idée de la
manière dont Ses affaires doivent se traiter dans
les assemblées. Il me Seroit impossible de vous
donner aucun détail de ce qui se passe, Je Suis obligé
de vous renvoyer aux papiers publics.

Jay l'h D'être avec un sincère attachement

Monsieur

Votre très humble et très
obéiss. Serviteur

Paris 24 Juillet 1789

Mount Vernon April 28. 1789

(№ 431)

Sir,

I gladly embrace myself the honor of writing you a few lines before you set out for Congress, but was so much indisposed, that it was not in my power to perform it —

I hope this will find your August Assembly proceeding in the most amicable manner and adopting sentiments quite agreeable to you which I am convinced will redound to the honor & Interest of the United States —

As we are informed that the upper parts of Potomack are, by accurate Surveys, found to be most Central for your new seat of Government we flatter ourselves with the hope, that Alexandria will be the place; and that it will thereby soon expand its narrow sails on the Nile, whose inmts highest degree of Wealth & Grandeur — for this Reason, I hope the low Lands on both sides of Potomack, will (by proper Cultivation) soon become as fertile as those of Antient Egypt after their most favorable Inundations — and the Completion of the new

Navigation, upon a most extensive Trade to our Capitals, from a much more valuable Country than that which lays above the Cataracts of the Nile.

Having no Correspondents at New York, upon whom I can depend for proper advice, how to act about the Sale of Continental Loan Office Certificates, I presume to request the favor of yours — About 3 years ago, I sent my friend in Philadelphia two — Viz — No. 2262 & 2266 dated June 10th. 1780 & payable to Anthony Walton White or bearer June 10th 1783, for 1000 Dollars each, with Interest at Six p.r Cent p.r Annum, agreeable to resolution of the United States June 29th 1779 and signed — Francis Hopkinson Treasurer of Loans, Will.m Ellis Comptr. marked L.N.2 — but as we did not sell them upon reasonable Terms, they still remain with him & he has not yet got some of the Interest, to pay 20 odd pounds which I owed him — Being very much in want of Cash at present, I would gladly part with them at reasonable Rates, but rather than suffer extravagantly, I must endure patiently —

If your time will permit, & you will oblige

to

to inquire me about some of the many Material matters, which I presume must now be under the Consideration of Congress particularly the Affair of British Debts; it will very much oblige me — As the settlement of these, must undoubtedly affect this State more than any of the others, they undoubtedly wish, how long that Affair may be suspended; and I find many who seem convinced that the surrender of the Forts & Territories retained by the British, will still retard this matter for some years — in the meantime, they hope, proper methods will be fallen upon for discharging the Debts due to their Subjects that they may be the better able to pay what they owe to Foreigners —

I am much afraid the publick Credit will never be firmly established abroad, until that is so Effectually done at home as to endure every Subject, thoroughly to confide in the property, which ever Government may have occasion for it — and the generous discharge of past promises will surely add much to the success of subsequent ones — Pray what do you think will be the fate of your one sixtieth Paper money when payable —

(№ 421)

David Galloway April 28th 89

Should you find it convenient to favour me with an answer, please enclose it to your Brother Col. Francis, upon whom I intend to call in a few Weeks, on my way to Fredericksburg if I am able to travel; but I am not in very bad state of Health for several months past —

I heartily wish you Health and happyness and Requesting your Pardon for this presumption I am respectfully Sir —

your most Obedient humble Servt

David Galloway

Lancaster Virginia
April 28th 1789

pray Excuse improper Paper for the parts of the letter

Galloway

Pa. 5 Let.

(№423) Providence May. 1st. 1789

The Honor.ble Richard H. Lee Esqr

Sir

Though we have not the Honor of a Personal Acquaintance with you, we cannot doubt from your well known Political Abilities, but it must be your Wish that the Union of the once United States should be as General as possible, and that no one of them (tho' of small Importance compared with others) should remain disconnected from the General Body —

The State of Rhode Island and providence Plantations is bounded about 70 Miles by Massachusetts, and 60 Miles by Connecticut — Her Harbours are as commodious for Shipping of the largest Size as any in the World, and are as easy of Access —

Thus Situated, how much is it in her Power to impede the Import Revenue laid by Congress by preventing a Collection of it? Or what could hinder her from Supplying New England with all her Foreign goods clear or free of the Continental Duty? —

We Suppose about two thirds of the Freemen of this State are opposed to the New Constitution, the General Assembly are against it in the same Proportion — However the Seaport Towns are Federal and desirous of joining the General Government, Viz.: Newport, Providence Bristol, Warren and Greenwich, — They propose if the General Assembly who meet at Newport next Week, do not call

call a State by the Continental Convention
Convention agreably to the Mode prescribed in September 1787
to petition the Congress now assembled at New York to take them
under their Protection and include them in the Union with such
Representation as may be thought Just and Equitable.—

As many of the Federalist's of this State
will not join in an Application to Congress untill they are assur'd
by some of the most Respectable and Influential Members of each
House that they will be received and protected— We Sir in the
most pressing Manner do request your Serious Consideration
of our Unhappy Situation in this State, and also pray you to
confer with such Gentlemen in Congress as you Judge proper,
and Afterwards to give us that Advice for our Government you
and they may deem the most Eligible.—

The Commercial Connection that has
subsisted between the State you Represent and this was Consi-
derable— More than 1000 Hogsheads of Tobacco Annually,
with an equal Proportion of your other Exports, has been shipped
to Europe and elsewhere from your State by the Merchants of
this and in their Vessel's— We flatter ourselves under the
kind Influence of the General Government (should we join it)
and the Reciprocity of Mutual Advantagious Regulations
between your State and this, our future Connection will be
more extensive and more Benificial than the past—

We sincerely hope that you and our
other worthy Friends in Congress may with their Advice
and Assistance soon extricate us from the wretched Situation
the Mistaken Policy of our Rulers have reduced us— Being
convinced that our Paper Currency now a Tender by the
Laws

Laws at parr for Just Specie debts tho' depreciated to 18 for One must be entirely anihilated, on our joining the Generall goverment and the Inhabitants of this State again become a Thriving and Happy People —

From our Knowledge of your established Character we are satisfied you will pardon the Liberty we have taken — & Assuring you we Remain Honord Sir

With the most Unfeigned Respect

Your most Obedient &
Most Humble Servants —

Nicho. Brown

Brown & Francis

~~North.~~ (R.I.)

(№ 422) Nicholas Brown

May 1st. 1789

(Edmund)

Mch.t Browns
of Providence
Answd May 7
1789

No. 84

Richard Hodgson Esq.r

In Congress. at

New York

The Honor.

Edmund Pendleton

To be presented by

Doct.r J. Mountflorence

(№ 423) Baltimore Town. 2d May 1795.

My Dear Sir

I beg leave to introduce to your Patronage Mr. David Harris of this Place. This Gentleman is endued with Reputation in the regular Service, and his private Character is very respectable, and most amiable. He is universally esteemed in this State. My friendship, and Connexion with Mr. Harris, from his Marriage with Miss Moale, sister of Mrs. [illegible] Jenning's Lady, induces Me to request your good Offices in his favour; if no Power of superior Merit & abilities offers for the Office he wishes to obtain. Mr. Harris, the Brother of Mr. Harris, will communicate Monday, to this to Wishes of Mr. Harris. I am Dear Sir, with Respect & Esteem Your affectionate & Obd. Servt

Saml. Chase

(№ 423)

(N°424) May 9th 1789

I am sorry my dear Brother, that our situation renders it so very precarious to correspond. You are always desirous of hearing from Court, & I am equally fond of hearing your comments on our proceedings.

The Bill for constituting the Judiciary is almost digested. The Outlines are, a Chief Justice & five Judges for the Supreme Court — One Judge in each State with Admiralty ~~[illegible]~~ jurisdiction — The States to be divided into 3 Districts with a Circuit Court in each consisting of two Judges of the Supreme Court of the State — Appeals from the State Court to the District, & from that to the Supreme Court. Wilson is an avowed Candidate for the Chief Justice ship — Jay is the Ministerial one — The Treasury is an object of much cupidity

Chancellor Livingston & Hamilton are competitors for the Superintendance of it. Mr Ellsworth has not yet announced his man; but it is conjectured that his partner Mr Th. Willing will be his choice. Should he succeed in making Mr Wilson C. J. & Mr Willing head of the finances he will be — as President Huntington used to say of his wife — pretty comfortable. In addition to his dependency & influence, your friend Thomson is endeavoring to be appointed Secretary of State for the home department. Should all these plans succeed — & they will speedily be supported by Mr Madison — we shall go on swimmingly. Just let Hell turn up, & I have no pleasure of seeing you as a free-man, which I have not full myself to be since I was on [illegible]

The first business of the House of Representatives was the impost. They were proceeding on a temporary Bill framed on the recommendation of 1783. But Mr Livingston's news arriving from Philadelphia

turned Madison directly about Smith himself
House, so that abandoning the temporary
plan they proceeded upon diverging at
leisure, a permanent system of enume-
-rated Articles, penal Laws &c &c which
will involve the appointment of all the
Officers — the establishment of custom-house
boats — ports &c &c — The great benefits
to be derived from this are — the stop of all
the springs East india imports — the
destroying the treasury & disgracing
its Commissioners — & the throwing the
government into the hands of the Ph
ladelphia Bank which will supply
monies for its immediate subsistence
provided the entire administration
of the Revenue in future is secured to
them or their friends. There are other
advantages too for which we ought to
be thankful — that is that either the
States will have the benefit of the speedy
collection or the individual merch

In Philadelphia it is said the Merchants are to contest it with the State & it is hoped they will succeed. Mr Tilghman is said to lead this litigation. But he never acts but by the impulse of R. M.

The President has two Levees a week. No public dinners, nor does he accept of any invitations. No proclamation has yet issued to continue the Officers of the old Congress under the new, from which circumstance the present prospect of Offices augers ill. Hopes & fears are afloat & feelingly alive. For my own part, I think changes in this department will take place, & that all the plans upon the revenue will succeed. The sum necessary for the present year - including arrears of interest instalments & anticipations - will be about 8.000000. The Impost this year - the most valuable part being lost - will be about 5 000,000. The deficiency must be otherwise provided for.

My dear Mrs Lee how do you do - how are your little Girls - their Brother is well dances & devours French Dishes at a great rate. Got Letter from Brother Lloyd to Mr R. H. L. not one word about Miss Sally's having received our Letter, nor of Mrs Garrets blue silk petticoat. How are the fair Sabines? When you have answerd all the questions - I will ask some more - Is the tea safe? Skipper cannot find the bill of Loading - Tea & Coffee here, good but at the same price & from the new duties, like to be dearer.

May 5

Representatives is report
to the Spectators galleries open to all, there Debates
regale themselves with the astonishing Oratory
of the new Constitutions. Mr Payne Chairman
of the whole. Whether the President shall have any
other title is much agitated. The Houses Represen-
tatives have addressed him — George Washington
President — The Senate, have negatived a Rep
of their Committee joined with one of the other
House, against giving any title. We were
deliberating what title they shall give. The
other Houses are entitled. They will not bend
to his Highness. The Printers have determined
it shall be his Excellency. I shewed them how the
thing might be accommodated by — His Excellency
Highness, or his High Excellency — being the
title. But it is thought that you Farmers
will at any new title. I think the
Prince, after getting so well over En-cau-
-a-ca-ca-ca garde, will find those
proposed, smooth & mellifluent.

You apply to me as to a monied man. How came
you to fall into such a mistake? I have laid out my
money in Land & find that Land is worth-
I think that a man would not see the interest

of his Money from the [illegible]
ginia at 20/ per Acre, excepting as much
as would suffice for a Plantation for
actual residence. This you will say is
the case with the Northumberland tract, &
so it is. But I shall conceive, had I not al-
ready involved myself in various pur-
chases. I have several Patents with the
Deeds of select spots in Kentucky. If any
bargain could be made with Mr Lee in
exchange, I should willingly do it upon
reasonable terms. The neighbourhood of the fair
widow & Mr. Landon Carter is a great temptation
but they are near enough to Woodberry
for any purpose of neighbours, & I am sure you
would think it wise, were I to lay out money
to do it in Woodland annexed to Woodberry.
It seems to me that Land will fall still lower
both from the falling of the value of Specie
the increased scarcity of money. It will also
inevitable that the burthen of Taxes must be
much augmented by this Constitution.
Shall therefore not be surprised if ones
Down come to feel that Landed property
is a burthen rather than a benefit.

[illegible]

[illegible] duties produces one Third
of the necessary demands of the government. The
rest must fall on the Land, and so they venture
on the house which is always an unpopular
tho a far less burthensome tax than the
Customs. I advise you therefore to put money
in your purse, against the federal sheriff
calls. They that will have a strong govern-
ment, must pay for it— for that is believing
They that will have a great government
must pay for it— for that is necessary.
But Mr. Madison in his address tells
us — that we are the freest People on
the face of the earth — can you resign
to, as well for so transcendent
a distinction.

My love to mrs Lee, the
Barrets & all that Friend
ship

Yours

Adieu

(N 424)

9th May 1789

~~(No 159,~~

My dear friend, New York May the 16th 1789

I had the honor of replying to the letter that you were pleased to write me by Mr. Allen, and I hope you have received my answer — Your second favor of April the 22d I received with the pleasure that I do every thing that comes from my much esteemed friend & instead of being troubled with your letters I am always rendered happy by them, finding in them all that genuine spirit of freedom and attachment to human rights that first endeared the writer of them to me. I believe it is not denied by any sober person, that the Congress possess powers adequate to the great purposes of the Union, and I know of no good man who desires that they should have less. But many wise men are of opinion that the expressions conveying power are too loose, and too much exposed to Latitudinary construction. You have given us the truest and the best reasons why this is improper — Mr. Madison lately gave notice to the H. of Representatives that he should shortly propose to take up the consideration of that Article in the Constitution which points the way to amendments — I should hope that a very great majority will concur in proposing such as may secure Civil liberty, and such as by giving content to all reasonable men, may procure that Union which is now wanting, and which is so necessary for the common safety. It is to be lamented that a short bill for securing the Spring impost upon the plan of 1783 was not adopted, until better lights and more temper had

had furnished an opportunity of perfecting the plan - We sh
then have been better able to comply with the publick engage
=ments, an object of great concern, and not liable to the im
=putation of putting the money necessary for so important
purpose into the private pockets of Traders. A bill for regu
=ing the Judiciary system of the U. States is preparing in the
Senate, and I trust it will come forth in a spirit of moderat
that will quiet the apprehentions of many, whilst federal
justice may be effectually administered thereby. But we
must not forget, that the liberties of the people are not so
well secured by the gracious manner, as by the limitat
of power. I congratulate you Sir on the event of your
election, they display the wisdom of the people when so
not headed men had broached an opposition upon the
principle that Mr. Hancock had been the proposer of the plan
for Amendments - altho there very Men had abundant reason
to think that your Convention would not have adopted the
Constitution if that expedient had not been proposed.

Be pleased to present my respects to Mr. Adams and be assured that I am unalterably your friend

Richard Henry Lee

P. S. I shall not forget Mr. Jarvis when it comes that I can do him service.

The Honorable
Samuel Adams
Lieutenant Governor of
Massachusetts
at
Boston

Free
R. H. Lee

May 18. 1786
Richd H. Lee

Remarks —

No 1. Mr. Harris was a member and part of the time Chairman of the Commee he appears also to have been their principal agent and consequently his account is the most extensive of any under the Committee, it involves a great variety of transactions but the principal are Shipments on account of the public — So far as the documents produced would admit the Amounts has been examined and the whole has been gone over so far as to ascertain what papers are still wanting a list of which has been handed to Mr. Harris a considerable time since — until he comes forward with these papers nothing further can be done nor can any judgement be formed of the State of the Accounts —

2 — This Account has been Stated and submitted to the Board of Treasury — balance due from the Contractors 6265 13/90 dollars —

3 — J. Gillon waives an Account which was entered by M. Pearce in the Commee books, but on investigation this Account appeared erroneous and a new Statement has been made — some documents are wanting to enable it and I have written to Mr Gillon for them —

4. This Account has been Stated and submitted to the Board of Treasury

5 — Mr. Isaac)

6 Mr. Mumford Contractor to Export Treasury Imports

Forster

Souder, Xavier have his Shipmate he settles his Ins
with the Comme. and his grant at St Eustatius Frees
a quantity of Powder entitle the public recs — to
proper accounts however appear to have been rendered by
the outward Cargoes — Mr Thompson has been written to
him on the subject within these few months but nothing
satisfactory can be got from him

7. this was a contract to Ship a Cargo. for which the
Comme issued a Warrant for £300 Dollars it appears
that instead of one this Ship two Cargoes and Mr Cooper
this Treasurer instead of paying the Warr. for £300 Dolls
paid Mr Mifflin on 5 Accounts 1588 Dolls I wrote Mr
Cooper some time since and have been every day expecting
an answer to explain the transaction

8. J. & P. Cavalier they settled their Account with the
Comme a trifling balance say £13.0.9 appears
due from them

9. Charles Stedman — the same — Balance due from
them £29.15.3

10 Thos Yorke Ships four Cargoes on Contract in his Brig
Betsy it appears they all succeeded and regular
returns were made but for want of one of the
Inward Invoices which must have been laid the
Account cannot be finally made up I have wrote to
Messrs Wm & Rob Adam the Shippers at Cork Ireland
for a Copy I believe a Ballance will be due to Mr Yorke

12. Blair M'Clenachan — this Ac^t has been settled at the Treasury and a Cert^t given for the ballance

13. Nich^s John Brown — this Account has been examined and there some Vouchers are wanting to close it I believe nothing will be due from them

13. Wm^ Jones — is gratified to Grant a large sum for Supposed services but it does not appear that any Amount whatever was ever rendered By the minutes of the Comm^e & the Correspondence it appears that he loaded a Vessel and that he returned with sundry Articles or Public Amount which the Comm^e ordered to be delivered to said Tillinghast Cont^l Agent at Rhode Island — It further appears that Mr Jones was insane since the war and that Tillinghast is a relation I have therefore written to him as the most likely person to give some account of the Transaction

14. Bayard Jackson & Co^ — This Account formerly settled asks a ballance due the Public has been paid in to the Treasury

15. Philip Livingston — the Amount of the Expenditure of this money is so connected with the other Accounts in which he is concerned that they must be taken up together with those of Lewis Ourtis

16 Silas & D. Deane — this Amount Stated was submitted to the Board of Treasury

17 Hodgon Bayard & Co^ — this Amount was formerly settled at the time of the transaction

18. Robert Lucas — this appears to have been paid him on
Acct of Waggon hire — no Acct of his expenditure
in Kentucky for which at the Treasury — examined
he [illegible] to the Bureau

19. Bishop Lewis &c — pay Indian Contracts

20 A Statement of this Account was submitted to the
Board of Treasury some time since

20 Morris & Ross — this Acct must be taken up when
M. Morris attends for a settlement it being in
some measure connected with his Accounts

21 George Lash — this was for manufacturing Powder and
was settled by the Commr at the time

22 Miss Clymer Letter with — This Acct has been referred
Objected & many documents and explanations are
necessary before a settlement can take place one
of the sums charged to them say 1247.29 was the amount
of a balance stated to be due on their Account the
Commr issued a Warrant for it but by a Memorandum
of M. Morris's it appears he never delivered them the
Warrant as I suppose because of the many vouchers
& explanations — the sum however appears paid by the
Treasury abstracts and no Voucher for the Expenditure
which is accounted for by Mr Clymers being at that
time Treasurer

23. Wm S. Babcock — this Acct: Examined and Stated
one Voucher wanting to complete it which I wrote
for, but Mrs Babcock writes her Husband is gone to
the East Indies —

24 Lowes Mear & Co
25 Donald Ps } Settled by the Commr at the time
26 Jos.a Anderson
27 Jno) Hubart . . . Settled at the Treasury
28 Higgins Harper — For value of Brig Cornelia lost
29 Wm.m Jones & Co — their Account is Closed in the Commrs books by their outward Shipments but on an investigation of what became of the Cargoes & Returns the Amounts are heavily deficient I have written to Sam.l Hollingsworth for information where of this House are living and where they reside in order to call on them
30 Hoys Mr Wrainy Bridges — Settled by the Commr
31 Dutton Griffith — He owed 20000 Dolls July 1776 on Contract he shipd some Indigo of his own to the West Indies & there bought an Armed Vessell under pretence that other Articles could not be procured — in fact he never attempted to comply with his Contract — John Stewart the Com.r Agent, when Govr Eden died, Seized 400 lbs. Indigo which he Shipd on Public Acc.t I believe this is all that was ever recovered I have written to Mr Cook on the Subject
32 Georgia Peacock — a small Ballance appears due from him on a Statement of his Acc.t for Manufactoring Powder — but by a Note in the Commrs books it appears his Mills were blown up —

N.º 33 John Bradford — his Account has been gone into as far as the Papers in the Office will admit but they are but a small part of what are necessary to the Adjustment of this Account

34 Hanes & Smith — this Acco.t was settled by the Commissioners Comm.rs and the Ballance drawn for by the Board of Admiralty — on an investigation of the Account some matters require explanation and I wrote to Mr Allen one of the House who has answered me but has not given the necessary information

35 John Bernard — He was Continental Agent in Georgia and made sundry Shipments for the public — I have written to him for some explanations and papers which are wanting to compleat a settlement of his Account

36 Benj Gibbs — In April 1778 the former bought his Brig then at Cape Francois and agreed to take the proceeds of her Cargo on their Acc.t and advanced him £5000 which it was then supposed the Vessell and Cargo would Amount to It appears however ~~that~~ from Mr Gerrios Accounts that the Cargo did not amount to but £2098. 10 — so that a ballance of £1101. 10 appears due from him In answer to my Let to him he wrote me 27 Sept last that he would take "as speedy measures for the settlement of the Acc.t as the nature of the case will admit.

37. John A. Livingston ... His Account Stated and submitted to the Board of Treasury

38 Isaac A. Purviance — After sundry applications to him M. Purviance is at length arrived and is to attend in a day or two to the Adjustment of his Accounts

39. Stephen Steward — He was Agent in Maryland &c His Accounts are to some magnitude as well with the Secret and Commercial Committee as with the Marine Department — Application has been made to him for an Acct of his transactions in answer to which he says that the whole of his Books and Papers were burnt with his House by the British and that all he can tell about the State of his Account is that he was considerably in advance for the public

40 Thomas Jett — a Statement of his Account has been submitted to the Treasury and by their directions I have directed M. Isaac Baker Counsellor at Law at Petersburg to see the Exors of Mr Jett —

41 Carter Braxton — By the Secret Journal books it appears that $5000 Dollars was advanced him to purchase Loans or public Securities — In June 1778 he renders an Acct of the Expenditure of this Money and made a Ballance due him of £428. 4. 4 which he desired might be paid to M. Morris He afterwards had another Account with the Commee advancing £2047. 18. 11 which he also desires may be paid M. Morris In 1779 — He advanced further sums for disbursemts on the Virginia say one Acct £2968. 11 and another £1111. 1. 4 — He also he directed to be paid M. Morris — In 1780 he paid the Ballance of this Virginia Accounts £1946. 18. 8 — but no directions were given about paying this Acct —

Supposing then the several Accounts last stated to be

right and Rebuilds to die with us that the Answers for paying the Balances has been complied with — M. Braxton would have no Acc with the Comm but for the last sum he Acc Balances say £1040 18. 6 —

In a late letter from M. Braxton he says that he must 10000 Dollars previous to the 40000 Doll. that he supposed due to be on public Acc. but Gov. M. Morris wants to take him Account for it in their private Account, and desires it may be brought into the public Account — it says it was part of a sum of 58000 Doll. left David Stewart to deliver to the public Agents — On Examination of the Books it appears that the public have nothing to do with it. the Warrant drawn to M. Morris was for 98000 Doll. in favor of David Stewart the other 10000 must therefore be on his own Account

On an investigation of the several Accounts passed by M. Braxton as mentioned above there appears a great deficiency of Vouchers and many of the Charges appear extravagant, and the several Orders with them it say the Accounts of M. Morris have not been complied with, nor are they charged in M. Morris Ac. but as M. Braxton says that M. Morris settled them in their private Account I suppose they will come in an after Account which M. Morris has not to render —

92 Maria Bennett of Kin — This was a payment for Cloth furnished

93 Charlton & Dorsius — These were Goods in Charleston and have also an Acc in the Marine Department

[illegible] ...ver Expenses to Mr. Parkson & others to the settlement
of Brig's Accounts He seems entirely ignorant of the transaction
but proposes to go to Boston and ascertain to get the Amt.
paid out by Mr Dorsius

44 Jas Prasp & Co This Acct has been examined and
Stated An Account of wanting from Derricks & Co
Liston before this transaction can be settled there
must be a Balance due to Prasp

45 Jonas & Parkman — This was for freight & Demurage
of the Mary Ann

46 Answorth Military Stores

47 Freight & Ins —

48 Account Memories transferred to Hospital Dept

49 Owners of Brig Liberty Settled by the Commissr

50 Brig Fanny Paid for her Hire

51 Owners of Mary and Betsey — for her Hire

52 Account to Masters of Brig Mary & Elizabeth } — Returns made
53 Account to Mr. & Gresham } are not settled

54 Clothing Dept — transferred to them

55 Mess Sail Smith & Ship Morris — Paid for freight

56 Messrs Lewis & Livingston Account to Lisbon & Freundship and
Sea Flower — Documents wanting from Mr
Daniels to settle these Accounts —

57 — James Warren — Settled by the Commercial Commr

58 John Prasp see N° 33

59 Robert Morris This was Chiefly for Hire of Vessels
under Mr Cabot

60 Nejamin Stevens See N° 39

61 Reeves & Smith See N° 39

62 Church & Livingston See N° 65

N° 63 — Rodrigue Hortalez & Co — See letters of Beaumarchais Answers —

64. Sam & A. Purviance — See N° 38

65 — Ebenezer Livingston — under Examination

66 Jacob Hiney . . . settled by the Commee

67. L & N. Babcock — see N° 23 —

68 Jas & W. Hunter — Settled by the Commee

69. Sam & L Perrose — See N° 44.

70 John Langdon — see N° 5 —

71 A. J. Budman — see N° 45 —

72 Francis Lewis — Mr Lewis has extensive Answers in connection with Capt. Ebenezer Livingston's Said Answers must all be settled together

73 John Nesbit . . see N° 35 —

74 John Ross & Co — Settled by Commee

75 Carter Braxton — See N° 41 —

76 Oliver Pollock — Settled at the Treasury

77 George Bush — see N° 21 —

78 John A. Livingston N° 37 —

79 Thomas Mumford — see N° 6

80 Robt Morris — this is for Wages paid —

81. Curson & Torquenet — They were Agents at St Eustatius and had very extensive Accounts with the Commee Their Accounts are under Examination —

82 Richard Curson — not yet Received

83 Sam[l] Curson — Do"

84 Mess[rs] Young — Have as Sup[d] to the Comm[rs]

85 Profit and Loss —

86 Mess Medcraft

87
88 } to such accounts not found
89

90 Account to J. Cathcart — not settled

91 Account Tobacco — not yet Settled

92 Gen[l] Mess Charges —

93 Sundry Accounts of Merchandize Imported
For Freight & Charges paid — these Accounts are
yet unsettled —

Under the foregoing — a number of Charges have been
transcribed from the Registers against individuals — and more
are still to come in — all which are duly posted to the
respective Accounts to which they belong —

The preceding shews in what manner the money
charges to the Committee was originally distributed by them
and how far the Accounts of those who owed it have
been examined or settled but in pursuing these Monies
to their final appropriation to public use, a very
great number of Accounts exclusive of the above

become

necessarily chargeable and require investigation.
Almost the whole of these have been settled inter,
a great part of them investigated and the necessary
steps taken to bring them to a close, and many of
them have been finally settled

The investigation of all the Accounts, and the Accounts depending thereon, may be considered as the principal and most important business to be done, when all the Accounts in which he is concerned are gone through the remainder of the business will easily be brought into such a state that it may be answered to any of the Officers of Accounts and the Inferior Commissioners for inquiring into Accounts may cease

Office of Accounts 27th May 1789

To
The Honorable
The Board of Treasury

The following Vouchers Wanting to . Exp. to 1st. Nov. 1806 of Jas. Lewis

Jany	Money paid Burgess for Hire of Brigt Cornelia & Molly		£ 6	7	5
9	do.	Do Lawrence Burgess on Note assigned by Lockard		7	6	9
11	do Burgess for passage of Gentlemen to Cornelia & Molly			8	8	
14	Money paid Exors on acct Brig Remorship			24	15	
21	do Lewis Stewart for do on Exps of carrying Money			28	12	6
28	Do Tobacco Ships Farmer Dashiell with Sta Loaf			6307	16	11½
31	paid Clarkson and Dorsius Bill on Messrs Nassy & Co		3600			
	Cost of exchg of carrying Money to Virginia		25	3625		
Feby	Money paid D Franks for a Bill of Exchange for £600 Sg sent into the Work for acct of the Directors			2000		
5	This is a Recharge					
5	Cash of Do Dorsius for 100 Bar. & Some Dogs for Lewes for ships Success & Anderson			38	1	6
6	Do do Do for 50 Bar. Do Do for Do Do			3750		
8	Do Exchange of sundry Bales of Goods				18	
11	Paid Robert Pusey Sundry expences attending landing the Cargoes of the Sloop Independance Brig Generous Hope & Ship Elizabeth Young at Newcastle			399	19	3
19	83 Ps 19 Fo 20 Iron taken off the Wharf by Capt. John Leighton for the Frigates Washington Delaware & Essington & Lighter			953	12	
21	Money paid Cracknode the Express		37. 10			
	do paid him by Mr Dorsius		52. 5. 4	89	15	4
26	Money paid Waggon Employed Carrg Books &c of the Company from Wilmd to Manheim & Frankford to New York			15		

N.B. The Particulars of Brig Generous & H. Packet & Harrisford are having been there different Freight Accounts.

Those Marked × have since been delivered in

The following Bonders are also Wanting for the delivery of Stores Imported under the Contract of 2d February 1778 being Contract No. 18

For delivering of 44 Bags powder of the Brigt Providence's Cargo

Ditto 116 Bars & 33 Rods ingots of Xarian Jean & Jorge & Helena

Ditto 1 Bale of 3 Scarlet Cloaks Jamaica Packet

Ditto 26 Khan fall Pcs. & 9 Khan Sheeting Brigt Charles

Ditto 23 Khan Sheeting Lost Jamaica

Contract for Captain of the Brigt Sea Nymph Capt Woodhouse.

Remittances made by Messrs Willing Morris & Co. this Year

Remain to be accounted for.

Date	Where Bound	Vessels Name	Masters Name	To whom Consigned	Amount		
1776	Advent to Dunkirk	Ship Minerva	Hutchins	Vesgony and Wilkie	£	1174	13 10
"	Lisbon	Neptune	Collins	Bacon & Sons		1369	16
"	Cadiz	Sampson	Farquharson	Berwicks & Co.		6983	19 7
"	do	Lyon	Wilson	Don Dom. Des Ibarra		1111	5 2
	Here are an Acct. of Contract No 1						
	The first and second are privately accounted for by this Hon.						
	on London say on Acct of the first			£1750			
	" second			1603 2 5			
	The third by Bill on Berwicks House in London			6300			
	but no Letter has been furnished						
	The Insurance belong to Acct Contract						
Sept 21	Advent to Cadiz	Ship Sally	Rawlins	Berwicks & Co.		3667	10
28	" Bordeaux	King of Prussia	Dorman	M. Daubaunch & Co.		3693	7 4
March 13	" Nantes	Dolphin	Moore	Jno. Drouin		1298	1 5
May 23	" Bordeaux	ditto	ditto	Messrs Delaps		5186	11
"	" Mississippi	Lady Catharine	Ord	The Captain		1212	9 -
	This Vessel Returned with a Cargo due to Messrs Clothier						
	Conrad but Acct Sales & are waiting						
"	Dunkerton	Schooner Lewis					
		Sloop Rowel		Corbin and Drouin		308	15
Nov.	" Nantes	Aurora	Hutchins	Thomas Morris		2217	7 1
1777 March 25	" Rochelle	Lachum	Robinson	Lane Son & Son		4185	1 9
"	" Bordeaux	Peter & Mary	Burrows	Messrs Delaps		1560	12 6
May 1	" Cape Francois	Frederick Maria	Robinson	Veronica		3663	5
"	" Carolina Rich Master	Surprize	Dunn	Messrs Dupey		302	2 6
"	" Cape Francois	Mercury	Ashmead	Veronica		1392	17 3
	This Vessel never procured the advent has Credit for						
	359 Barrs flour due the Commiss at Dunkerton the Cargo						
	Consist of 1809 Barrs of flour						

advent to Bourdeaux	Ger. Snow	Robertson	Messrs Delaps	£ 9025	0	0
	the Cargo consist of 183 hhds Tobacco. the advent has freight for 6 pipes of 121 hhds & 6 Hds of Tobacco saved after the					
	was stranded. No papers					
Bourdeaux or Nantes	Convert	Johnston	Auchenleck & Lewis	and Morris	6198	5	3
France	Ship Lyon	Wilson			1552	19	3
	The foregoing papers a Cert. Exd per Mr. Ross advertises with						
	Messrs W. & H. the Cargo consisted of 375 hhds Tobacco,						
	129 Tres flour, 3900 Pipe, and 1200 Barshaw of which						
	above sum is 2/3 the cost.						
	The advent has proved for 7/8 of 119 Barrels flour as						
	Samuel White Commissary at Bordeaux, but nothing						
	appears to show what became of the remainder of						
	the Cargo.						
advent to France	Brig Braxton	James			1663	2	4
Ditto	Speedwell	Kent			2083	8	5

The following are an apa of Messrs Ross's

Extract

1770								
April 15	Advent to Cadiz	Brig Betsy	Mr Reven	Duff & Welch		1936	4	8
Augt 18	Cape Nubois Mole	Fridham	Scott	John Dupuy		522	17	9
	Ditto	Betsy	Norcum	Ditto		1975	3	10
	to Corunna	Ship Hope	Jarvis	Jno Delgeo Rubio		3908		6
	Mr Ross furnish'd a Sum Accot from his Cargo given in as this							
	imp. to Lisbon 35.000			Advent				
	Maiden & Bilboa	Sam Rebal	Nicken	Dom Carcogie		1356	11	10
	This last paid by Mr Ross in his apa.							

By an abstract furnished by the Register of the Treasury
of the 13th February 1787. The several Commissioners of Congress are charged
with various sums of Loan Commissions issued to them amounting
to ..... Dollars 2.082.075.25

The whole of which sum appears to have been paid out by them, to
sundry persons and for various purposes, and in a set of Books, opened for
the Liquidment of their Acpts. to charged as follows. Viz.

1	Willing Morris & Co Contract Acpt. No 1				45 000	
	" " 2				145 000	
	" Acpt current				424.396 35	189.396 35
2	Messrs Lewis and Livingstons Contract			1775 October 9th	35 000	
3	Alexander Gillon & Co	35 000		1775 November 8	02 333	30
		1000		1776 " 22		
		333.30		" decem 5		
4	Nathaniel Shaw and Co			1775 November 8	21 000	
5	John Langdon	15 000		1775 Decem 8	15 000	
		10 000		1776 Jany 1		
		20 000		1777 April 6		
6	Thomas Stoutenburgh	28 500		1775 Novem 28	28 998	36
		340		1776 aug 16		
		158 36		Sept 5		
7	Mifflin and Lynch			1775 Novem 30	15 887	
				Decem 23		
8	Mr and Peter Thevalin	11000		1775 Decem 5	12 889	69
		1615 46		1776 Jany 22		
		311 23		aug 31		
9	Parker and Fightlingale			1775 Decem 11	6 000	
10	Thomas Isbel	5330		1778 Decem 19	21 550	
		5400		1776 March 16		
		800		April 28		
		5 000		Sept 18		
11	Blair M'Clenachan	4550		1775 Novem 22	18 240	83
		35.55		1776 aug 31		
		18333 30		1777 May 6		
12	Nicholas and Mr Brown	20 000		1778 Decem 22	46 500	
		24 000		1776 Nov 6		
		2500		1777 Sept 10		
13	Thomas Lee			1775 Decem 26	10 000	
14	Eagans Jackson and Co			1775 Decem 26	15 000	
15	Rhees Livingston			1776 Jany 8	20 000	
16	Silas and Mr Deane	30000		1775 Jany 12	31 859	50
		1859 50		" Sept 27		
17	Borgos Eagans and Co	23333 30		1776 Feby 16	69 999	30
		10000		1777 April 23		
		36000		May 21		
18	Robert Morris			1776 Jany 26	3 360	
				May 29		
19	Mr Lewis Livingston Morris & Deane			1775 Sept 19th	200 000	
	Amt Recd				150 948	63

			Amount Brought Over		1150	318 60
29	Lewis and Rose			1776 March 16	20 000	
31	Leo & Cook			1776 May 8 to 1777 March 15	2 180	
32	Lesser Turner and Meredith	3351 78 48 1247 70	2000	1776 March 19 " " 1776 Sept	29 847	38
33	Lee & Prentice	2419 46 3900 15 8327 17 1987 87		1776 March 7 1776 May 19 " May 11 Sept 15 to 26 1777 April 19	20 000 19 818	93
35	Stevens Ward and Co			1776 May 2 to April 25 1777	1 733	60
36	Jonathan Hudson	333 30 800 11862 6		1776 May 25 " August 6 Sept 20	13 758	36
37	George Turner			1776 June 8 Augt 1	100	
38	King and Barton			1776 June 13 to June 15	2 210	80
39	Math Ewen and Co			1776 Aug 6	10 000	
30	Boyd Wm Swaine and Bridges	2835 20 32 30 12 000		1776 June 13 July 18 1777 May 20	14 968	60
31	Sutton Winsett			1776 July 13	30 000	
32	S. Peacock			1776 June 25 August 6	122	
33	Wm Bradford	10000 10000		1776 Aug 17 1777 April 1	20 000	
34	Moses Smith			1776 Sept 5	20 000	
35	John Wendal			1776 Sept 18	10 000	
36	Benj Gibbs			1776 Sept 20	4 333	30
37	Wm A Livingston			1776 Aug 5	1 250	
38	Sam & Ch Dennyance	23 000 12 000		1776 Sept 1 " 27	10 000	
39	Stephen Stewart	12 000 24 000 37 333 30 49 333 30		1776 Sept 6 & 18 July 1 & 30 June 1	89 666	60
10	Thomas Lee	10 000 20 000		1777 Feb 27 April 7	10 000	
41	Peter Boschon			1777 April 6	10 000	
42	Wm Steinmetz			1777 May 1	37 500	
43	Carbonn and Sourion			1777 March 20	13 233	51
41	Sam Denormie and Co			1777 June 1	1 500	
45	Wm Beekman			1777 June 1	2 666	60
46	Aga of Military Stores			1776 Sept 20 to April 22 1777	12 012	19
47	Profit and Loss			1776 April 9 to June 5 1777	60 968	62
48	Aga of Medicines sent to Gen Lee from Gen Lincoln and			1776 April 15	2 371	81
49	Warren of Ships Liberty			1776 June 6	2 720	
50	Brig Fanny			1776 Sept 26	2 000	
51	Stores of Ships Nancy and Fanny			1776 Oct 27	4 168	66
				Am Over	1913 711	43

		Brought over				1913	711	18
52	Edward b.	Parker & Wright Esqrs		1777 Oct 21	Elizabeth Port of Sago	9	856	9
53	do	do & Effingham		Dec 1777 Jany 21		16	000	27
54	Clothing	Department		1777 March 6	120 000			
				1776 Oct 5	20 000	140	000	
55	Captain	& the privateer Minnie	for freight	1776 Sept 5th		1	053	6
56	Messrs	Lewis and Livingston	Edward & Lisbon					
		the Ranger	and for a Cannon	1777 April 23d		1	985	30
						2089	675	25

	Amount	Brought	over			1809	771	83
		Deduct	for Thos Mumford short Paid	by Mr Billings				
		on	Account			114	195	11
			To the Treasurer	remitting Common Pleas		1309	576	72
		Drawn	to the following	Ajax				
57	James	Warren		5000	1777 April 16			
				9000	1778 Sept 4	119	312	17
				1759 15	aug 4			
				22650 2	1781 May 31			
58	Do	Bradford		20 000	1777 Oct 27	21	000	
				4 000	1778 May 19			
59	Ebenezer			3080	1777 Nov 27	15	080	
				12000	1779 March 11			
				6000	1778 Dec 5			
60	Stephen	Stewart		19291 30	1779 May 26	110	058	
		Francis & Samuel	1779	37333 30	1781			
				38306	1778 Feb 4			
61	Deane	and Smith		13000	May 18	89	289	88
				37983 88	Oct 19 29			
62	Hankerson	& Livingston		26000	1778 Jan 26	52	500	
				2500	April 26			
				32000	1779 Jan 25			
63	R	Morlatz	and Co		1778 March 23	41	000	
					May 9			
64	Sam &	Robert	Swingston	6291 38	1777 April 19	15	106	81
				10174 38	1778 May 12			
				24000	1778 May 8			
65	Abraham	Livingston		52000	28	90	000	
				10000	August 11			
				10000	1779 Nov 22			
66	Jacob	Wendy		16000	1778 March 25	19	486	31
				3380 31				
67	Isaac	& Walcott			1778 June 3d	11	701	
				417 38	1778 Sept 18			
68	James	& Alexander		3000	aug 20	11	412	80
				7525 10	Nov 20			
				460	1779 Nov 22			
69	Sam &	Penrose			1778 July 17	10	616	60
70	Mr	Langdon			1778 Oct 6	16	666	60
71	Appr	Brahmin			1778 Nov 10	9	239	50
72	Francis	Lewis			1778 Nov 17		260	
73	Mr	Merrat			1779 Sept 25	20	000	
74	Mr	Vixon &			1779 June 3d	15	811	
						847	847	19

Amount brought over 6,317. 8,274. 19

75	Capt. Wm. Drayton		1779 May 1	£	200	
76	Oliver Bullock	7147.18 / 3,960 / 2,750	1779 March 2 / Feb. 21 / " 27	53	397	18
77	George Cook		1779 March 30	2	410	30
78	Mr. R. Livingston		1779 June 15	2	500	
79	Thomas Bromfield		1779 Dec. 21		220	
80	Brigt. Alonzo		1780 May 26		211	
81	Swan and Commerce	59,999.90 / 2,907.60 / 21,390	1779 March 29 / April 23 / May 9	81	700	80
82	Richard Curson		1779 March 8	80	000	—
83	Jane Guerdon		1779 Feb. 22	102	200	
84	Moses Young		1780 Aug. 17	3	398	20 —
85	Ship Good Hope		1779 June 15 / to Jan. 21. 1779	30	916	60
86	Ship Providence		1779 May 28		735	40
87	Brigt. Minerva paid Captain Hayes		1779 June 17		800	
88	Sloop St. Peters ditto & Mate		1779 May 1		874	
89	Ship Rose Hayes arr. from Nantz		1779 Oct. 8		783	18
90	Account to Paul Ship Rachel arr. of 19 Hhds. Tobacco		1779 June 23	6	318	88
91	Ditto Ship for arr. of 29 Hhds. 610 ℔ Do. quere		1779 April 8	19	561	3
92	Ten Ships of Hayes paid pasting the Rose to Nantz		1779 June 15		431	
93	Three Imports from Europe & the W. Indies by the following Ships,					

Thos. Lucas, Mary and Eliz., Harlequin, Mars, Expedition, Hester, active, Liberty, Patty, Marquis Cornwallis, Batchelor, Black Prince, Betsy, Polly Ship, Vengance, Fame, Fayette, American Trooper, & Rambler, pair freight & their Journey Wages 273,039. 54

1,309,576. 79

1778 August	11	Thos. Lucas	freight	3,555. 50	1780				
1779 March	3	Eliz. & Mary	Corps	134. 6	Aug.	11	Betsy	freight	1,000.
	11	Harlequin	freight	657. 25	Sept.	28	Vengance	"	19,767. 0.
June	25	Mars	"	5,232. 45	Octo.	2	Fame	"	4,886. 45.
July	1	addition	"	5,093.		10	Fayette	"	14,768.
August	5	Hester	"	5,051. 48.		"	American	"	2,100.
Sept.	20	Active	"	5,913. 30.		20	Hester	"	19,807. 66.
Nov.	30	Liberty	"	58,512.		Nov. 3	Trooper	"	10,000.
1780 March	6	Patty	"	2,000.	1779 March / 1780 April	6	Rambler	"	1,711. 52.
April	6	Independance	"	16,502.		6	Hero	"	7,989. 99.
May	11	Batchelor	"	23,841. 30.			Brot. forward		196,625. 54
June	16	Black Prince	"	49,333. 30.					273,039. 54
"	3	Polly	"	48,666. 60.					
				196,625. 54					

Dates of the Payments made to Mess[rs] Willing & Morris & Co by Secret

					Dollars
Contract a/s. N[o] 1	1775	Septem[r]	27		15000
ditto 2	1775	Decem[r]	12		12 000
a/s Current	1776	Janᵛ	1	20 000	
		July	9	10 000	
		August	13	80 000	
		9[o]		1 112	66
		Septem[r]	15	8 883	18
			26	10 000	
		Novem[r]	8	1 768	
			22	16 666	60
	1777	Janᵛ	6	6 666	60
			10	19 382	15
			11	18 000	
		February	8	20 000	
			22	8 000	
		April	7	40 000	
		"	1	22 292	56
			26	5 521	
		July	11	10 000	121396 35
				Dollars	183396 35

Exclusive of the above sum there is a further debit to go to the a/c of Mess[rs] Willing Morris & Co of 80 000 Dollars rec[d] them in 1778 before the Secret Committee were appointed, for the Importation of Arms &c Stores to them in Feb[y] 1776 for which a Contract was Entered into afterwards with the Committee under date of 5[th] Feb[y] 1776. Select Contract N[o] 3.

State of the Accounts of the
Secret and Commercial Committees
with an account of the progress made
in the Adjustment of them

Office of Accts May 27. 1789
Dea Master

1784

123

(N 425)

Baltimore 16th May. 1799.

My dear Sir

I am honord and obligd by your letter of Sunday last.— I am informd that Mr Hallday is a Gentleman of great Diffidence and Modesty, I hope I will not be known to Mr Harris to you as the Bearer of Mr Harris's Letter to Lord Grenville on your Side, to whom I have addressd a letter in favour of Mr. Harris.— I am glad to hear that the character and Services of Mr Samuel and Robert Purviance are not forgot by You.— I hope America will remember her friends. I know the Conduct of both the Brothers: they were united and uniform, and they possessd a Liberality of generally in the most noble character. Mr Hillhouse on all occasions to support. they were honest fair and Industrious Traders, and failed. Mr Robt

Purchasing may be usefully employed. Let it
acquainted with Business and Riguidity, and
be a Integrity, to most of mortal men
in those most virtuous Times = there be
been a Coolness between the Lawyers and
Clergy, and also the Presbyterians, since I
advocated the Clergy Bill, but as I consider
consider this attachment to the late Revolution
as flowing from Principle, I shall be
pleased to hear Mr. Duncan's proposed
to the Host of Law Hunters.—
I observe that a Day is appointed to consider
Amendments to the new Constitution. I am one
of the Number that expect no Practical alteration
I hope I may be mistaken. I fear that no
Check will be placed on the Exercise of any of the
powers granted. I am satisfied that, every
Amendment must flow from Grace & favour.

our people will not contend for any, the most important. In this State We are prepared to submit to any government. the Hearts of your people are broke, they are bow down to the Earth with their Dolls. — accept as my present With to you Mens sana in Corpore sano. With real bloom and Rosy health

Your affectionate and
Obed. Servant
Sam.[c] Chase

(№425)

S. Chase

Letter

~~№ 54~~

Letter from
Gl Weedon
from Gl.
Whipple in 83
thanking him &c
for his efforts
resp[g] the fishery
& congratulating
him on restoring
the Peace —

S. Chase
resp[g] the
amendments
to the Const[n]

Notice S
death of 1802.

The Honorable
Richard [illegible]
Speaker of the
House of
Representatives
of the United States
New York

from Eng

(№418)

My dear pi Shalford 17th may 1789.

I had the pleasure this morning of receiving your
lett. of the 27th april & have the satisfaction of in-
forming you that your family & friends are
all well. We have experienced a cold & lately
very rainy spring. In consequence of which
the cattle have perished in great numbers
the ensuing crops are late in their beginning
& the tobacco plants very scarce indeed.

Corn continues low in price as does
tobacco, wheat has risen, but of this article
there is very little on hand - The growing
crop seems very promising & we have
abundance of fruit on the trees, in
the forest little or none. Our election is as
you must know over, my uncle & myself
elected - nearly 250 freeholders polled & Mr
Campbell was lost by a majority in favor
of my uncle of 39 — The sheriffs have made
a beginning in the collection of taxes, their
progress very slow & the prospect of full
coffers to the state highly unpromising.
No money in circulation & produce (be-
yond comparison with its common value)
low - It is presumed that the assembly
will be convened for the purpose of making
a change in the tax law & admitting tobacco
in payment.

We are all made very happy by the intelli-
gence we receive from every quarter of
the harmony & good understanding which
prevails in Congress - From such a beginning
we hope to derive every good which a nation
can receive from its govt. nor is there a

doubt entertained but that the amendments securing the people from oppression & restoring to the whole society entire confidence in the government, general in their nature and [illegible] in their operation as they may affect the energy of the constitution will be adopted with unanimity. moderate duties on our commerce will meet the opinion of the people & be stamped with their approbation. Indeed with us it is expected that the Union will be content with duties much lower than have been established by the state legislatures - For this opinion for there are many reasons, one among others, that the commerce of the thirteen states being under the administration of one body the relative importance resulting from the dependance of the states in their regulations of commerce as well as the savings in the collection which must follow from the change in the system will add considerably to the revenue arising from commerce.

Whatever may be done in this & all other matters the heartily pray may promote our common good & restore harmony & concord among all orders & citizens throughout the Union -

Sir a letter which you transmitted to me from Mr. Jonathan Dayton, a gentleman well known to me in the assembly & in the peace, it is his anxious desire to be introduced to you by me - This proceeds from his respect to your character & his admiration of your talents

as I know his Daughter to be truely worthy
to possess high consideration in his own
State, to be firm & independent in his
principles & attached most affectionately
to the happiness of his country I
take great pleasure in obeying his
wishes & shall be highly gratified in
hearing that you cultivate his ac-
quaintance by manifesting on your part
an inclination to receive his advances.
In order to put it in his power
to execute his wishes I have enclosed
this letter under cover to his Daughter
who will give it into your hands.
Maurice is not so well as the enjoy-
ment you have received seems to
have suggested - She continues very low
& subject to fevers every now & then.
Difficulty of breathing & great
debility of body. Our invaluable friend
Sendall is arrived in Baltimore unaffect-
ed by the voyage & too weak to proceed
hither - Maurice wishes to go to see her
Mamma & altho I know no good can
be done to either & some injury may
result to this Lea from the attempt,
yet I cannot quiet Lea's fresent
uneasiness only by commencing the trip
for which purpose I propose to
set Carter off as soon as the return
& embark for Baltimore, where I
hope to be once more happy in the com-
pany of our best of mothers, & where to
beg

Mr. Lee

B. of Rep. 264

[illegible] Lee [illegible]
[illegible] Mr. Lee [illegible]
[illegible] Lee [illegible]
[illegible] Lee [illegible]
[illegible]

(№ 426)

New York June 8th 1789.

Gentlemen

Although, in the present unsettled state of the Executive Departments under the Government of the Union, I do not conceive it expedient to call upon you, for information, officially; yet I have supposed that some informal communications from the Board of Treasury might neither be improper nor unprofitable. In finding myself at this moment less occupied with the duties of my office, than I shall probably be at almost any time hereafter, I am desirous of employing myself in obtaining an acquaintance with the real situation of the several great departments, at the period of my succeeding to the administration of the General Govern-

-ment

=ment. For this purpose I wish to receive in writing such a clear account of the Department at the head of which you have been for some years past, as may be sufficient (without overburdening or con=fusing a mind which has many objects to claim its attention at the same instant) to impress me with a full, precise and distinct general idea of the affairs of the United States, so far as they are com=prehended in, or connected with that Department.

As I am now at leisure to inspect such papers and documents, as may be necessary to be acted upon hereafter, or as may be calculated to give me an insight into the business and duties of that department, I have thought fit to address this Notification to you accordingly.—

I am, with due consideration,

Gentlemen, Your most Hble Servt

(signed) G°. Washington

The Hble
Board of Treasury.—

Compared with the original
Wm Duer Secy to the Board of

Baltimore 2 July 1809 323

My Dear Sir

As the Time approaches for the appointment to office to vacancy of the Officers outwards. Mr Harris is alarmed from the number of Applicants, and has told that the President will only nominate one Person to each office. the Choice of the Senate will be great, and useful to the public if this Mode be pursued! — they will have a Negative. if the President stand again nominate the same Person, Cabinet; the Office must be vacant, or his Nomination accepted. I remember it was held a Maxim in British Politics, that all acts of Royalty should flow from the King alone — all Refusals from his Ministers. I hope this Information is not true.

I sometimes see Debates in the Lower House of Parliament, but none in the Senate. I hear their Doors are locked. if true, I am sorry for it. I retain my Republican principles, though on Government and the Powers of the Legislature changed, and are monarchical. — I approve of the

Amendment of the Senate to the Impost Bill.

the Duties are got too high, and by remitting some it. I think the subject of the bill ought to have been divided. Duties for Revenue: Duties for the regulation of Trade: and Duties to encourage Manufactures, if You have any power by the Constitution to impose Taxes, or Duties, for the Purpose.

I presume by the Bill for the establishment of the Judicial Courts, that the Jury trial is secured if the Jury trial depends on a Law, it may be modified or taken away by another Law. I think the Bill is ably drawn. I think there are some Defects. — the District Courts ought to have Jurisdiction of Causes under 100 Dollars to the District Court ought to have Jurisdiction of Suits to amount of 100 Dollars. — the same Persons ought, on no account, to be Judges of Law, & Equity. the Restriction on the Jurisdiction of the Courts of Equity will render the Court useless in a thousand Instances, in which it ought to have Jurisdiction. it is difficult to define the Jurisdiction but the Limitation will do great Injury. I have wrote my Ideas of a proper Clause pointing out in what Cases the Equity Courts shall have Jurisdiction, I consider the District Court as the most useful and important, the Supreme Court as the most honorable and profitable. If it is

to Mr. Hoyt.—

intended to give the District Judge Exclusive Jurisdiction
of Cases in Time of War his Office would be 525
very important, and will require considerable
abilities, as well as great Integrity. - May
if intended, because it is omitted.
Wherever I scribble now, or at any time, it
only for your private Observation. if I notice
any thing to You it is without the least Intention
of Giving Offence to any one. If my Opinion
and Counsel, I would on every Occasion allowance
to be Mistaken. - I have not Leisure one Person
approved. it is plunging in the Government into
the Hands of the wealthy, or adventurous.
adieu, my Dear Sir, accept my best Wishes
for your Health and Prosperity, that of my
Friend Harry, and Believe Me to be, at
all times, Your affectionate Friend, and
Obed.t Servt.
Sam.l Chase

My dear friend (N° 427) Lawfield July 6th 1789

Your favor of the 17th June with a Copy of the Bill to establish the Judicial Courts of the united States came to me by the Stage the evening before I left Richmond, on the 26th I have had but little time to consider it since I came home but as I have so favorable an Opportunity to New York by my Son John who sails in a few days for that Place I cannot avoid giving you my Sentiments upon it. The framers of the Bill appear to have taken great pains to make it as little exceptionable as poss-sible and to have guarded against the Mischiefs which many people dreaded from the Words of the Constitution and I think upon the whole the System a good one. But as I cannot be acquainted with the further views of the framers, whether they intend this bill as the whole Scheme of the Judiciary or whether Supplimental Bills respecting each Court are designed I shall take the liberty to make a few Observations upon the Supposition of its being the whole of the System.

I refer it to your Consideration whether it would not have been most proper to have had three seperate Bills; the first establishing the Supreme Court with its Jurisdiction as clearly defined in the present Bill together with the several rules necessary to be established in the Conduct of all Suits brought in that Court to their final determination — for as each State has its particular modes

Modes of conducting Suits there may be some Confusion therein if not established by Congress. indeed there does not seem to be so great a necessity for it in the Supreme Court as the six Judges may in their own Court establish uniform Rules, which will not be the Case in the Circuit and district Courts where there are different Jurisdictions, different Judges and different modes of proceeding as I have said in each State for the bringing Suits to issue

The rules for the Circuit and district Courts should also be clearly laid down in each seperate Bill establishing those Courts - It is true in the 17th. Clause of the Bill Power is given to the several Courts to make and establish necessary rules for the orderly conducting business in the said Courts, but still the objection holds that different Judges in different Courts may make different rules. I was first led to this reflection on observing an expression in the 11th. Clause which in the Bill you sent me I have noted & which I have sent you back with the Clauses numbered, that you may the more readily recur to them It is intended by this Clause as it would seem that no person should be sued out of his own District and yet it goes further and says, "Or in which he shall be found at the time of serving "the Writ. Now this is either unintelligible or must have the construction I have given it in my Note, which paints out the necessity of establishing regular Modes of proceedings in every Court.

I observe further that no time is fixed for the Continuance of the several Courts and this seems to me to be necessary as the Causes ought to be set to particular days of the Court that Suitors may know how to summon their Witnesses

Witnesses to the respective days on which their Suits are set for trial

I refer you to my note on the 18th. Clause respecting new trials. The time I think is too long.

See also my Note on the 25th. Clause respecting the mode of ascertaining damages on breach of Contract - I would never have the Court to encroach on the province of the Jury and the assessing damages is certainly their province

Thus Sir I think I have taken notice of every thing that has occurred to me on reading the bill ~~which~~

Perhaps upon comparing the Laws of the several States respecting the practice of the Courts a judicious System of Rules may be selected and I ocally think Rules are necessary and ought to be in the Law establishing each Court

I observe the slip of the newspaper sent me and know the design, but still I think a Bill of rights not necessary here tho in France absolutely so and twas proper for the Duke of Orleans to recommend it In France the King claims all power here the States claim & have all power but what they have given away — However I have no objection to such a bill of Rights ~~and~~ as has been proposed by Mr. Maddison because We declare that we do not abridge our Rights by the reservation but that we retain all we have not specifically given — I have not been able to consider the Amendments proposed to be made to the Constitution but think some of the objections made to it will if they are adopted be taken away I wish not they should be too minute left greater inconveniencies ~~may~~

(N 427)

Richard Parker of Lawfield

12 Letters

July 6th 1789.

(1 Nov 359.)

inconvanicencies arose

I am afraid this tedious Letter will hire you and yet I must add to it length with a request of my Son Alexanders. When he was at New York a Mr. William Morris at the Treasury Office in Gay Street promised him to make Enquiry respecting an Account he had ag.st the United States for his Expences, advances and trouble whilest he was Surveyor appointed by Congress to lay off the Townships – Morris informed him the other Surveyor had been paid and that if Capt Hutchins had not drawn Alex.r pay he would procure it and pay it to you – You will oblige Alex.r and my self if you will be so good as to take the trouble when you are disengaged of knowing of Mr. Morris respecting this buisness and informing of the result Wishing Health Happiness and every Good I am my dearest friend

Your very affectionate

Rich.d Parker

R. 359.

N. 2 Harlan 1789

Dear Sir

Boston July 14. 1789

I have not lately received a Line from you, and am ready to impute it to the Multiplicity of Affairs in which your Mind is employed. You must not expect that I shall be ~~able~~ even with you upon the epistolary Score, for the Reason which I have heretofore given you. I wish to know from you the State of federal Affairs as often as your Leisure may admit. We organize our State Governments, and I heartily wish that their Authority and Dignity may be preserved within their several Jurisdictions, as far as may be consistent with the Purposes for which the federal Government is designed. They are in my Opinion petit Politicians who would wish to lessen the due Weight of the State Governments; for I think the federal must depend upon the Influence of these to carry their Laws into Effect; and while those Laws have for their ~~sole~~ Object the promoting the Purposes of the federal Union, there is Reason to expect they will have the due Support of the State Authorities. Places are now become the Object of Multitudes; I mentioned to you in a former Letter the Name of Leonard Jarvis Esq^r. whom I hope you will not forget. Israel Keith Esq^r. wishes to have the Place of Marshal within this District. He is a Gentleman of the Law, and was during the War Aid de Camp to General Heath, who I understand has recommended him to the President. You will

gratify the Wishes of Mr. Keith as far as shall consist with your own Ideas of Propriety; and be assured, that I am sincerely

Your Friend

J Adams

P. S. I have been informed that Mr. Edward Church a Native of this Town, but now an Inhabitant of Georgia is in the City of New York. I take him to have been a steady Friend to the Liberties of our Country, and a Man of Sense and Integrity. If it will not weary you with Applications I will beg your Notice of him, and after your own Inquiries afford him your Influence, if you shall think it proper, in promoting him to a suitable Employment under Congress in the State of Georgia. This I mention without his Solicitation, or even Knowledge.

342

S. Adams

14 July 1789.

Hon. S. Adams
to be answered
dated 14 July 1789
Rec. 20 July 1789

Boston

The Honourable
Richard Henry Lee Esquire
Senator in Congress
New York.

16 000
34 000
2 00
2 20
8 00
9 00
5 00
2 00
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3340
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160
308
240
104
250
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370

17
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31
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31
1396
834

100
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1995
1.5

31
30
31
15
1076
426
252

Arthur Lee Esqr
New York

Bordeaux 15 July 1789

D.r Sir

My last was of the 12th May since which many weighty changes have taken place in this Kingdom. The seed is sown but before the Crop is ripe many accidents may take place to injure the fruit.

I transmit you herewith the proceedings of the States General up to this day, the contended point, the union of the three orders, is effected.

The debates on National Abuses and Reforms have not yet commenced, The Representatives of the tiers Etats are composed of men of abilities many able orators and steddy persevering well informed Characters, who have in View to sap the old Constitution to the Roop and form One on primeval combined with the present General Idea of the rights of Citoyens of all denominations. The upper ordey appear to dread the influence of the members of the Tier. The Assembly is divided into Chambers or Committees of forty Members each

The

One of the Chambers is remarked to be composed of the most Eminent heads of the two parties

I expect Mr Jefferson will be with you near the time this gets to hand being advised he has received his leave of absence

We have had a difficult winter for the ministrie de finance. The sums they have been obliged to advance for wheat and flour to foreign Nations, and the uncompulsive measures they were constraind to observe in the recovery of the Taxes frequently put them to difficulties. The Nation now assembled will soon pave the way to prevent future Clogs on one side and bind the hands of dissipation to stipulated limits

A project is dispersed thro the Kingdom for establish a simple Import that shall satisfy all the wants of Government. by the number of Complaints it is suspected the plan is agreable to the leading members in the present Senat, the great and Sole opposition arises from the many placed men that would be found displaced. A Tax of this Nature would

be

well addapted for America where you wish to have
every man dependant on his own personal Industry
for his Existence, that true Genuin Freedom should
reign thro the whole Extent of the States unclogd
by Custom houses or Customhouse Officers, a chain of
men that become the moment they embrace the
profession Enemies to their fellow Citizens. Unpleas
prejudices and Vicious Habits will we fear Corrupt
your Infantey. and grow with age
with regard and attachment I have the Honor
to be

Sir

your very Hble Servant

John Bondfield

John Bondfield
to a Lee
2 Letters
July 15th 79

No. 2.

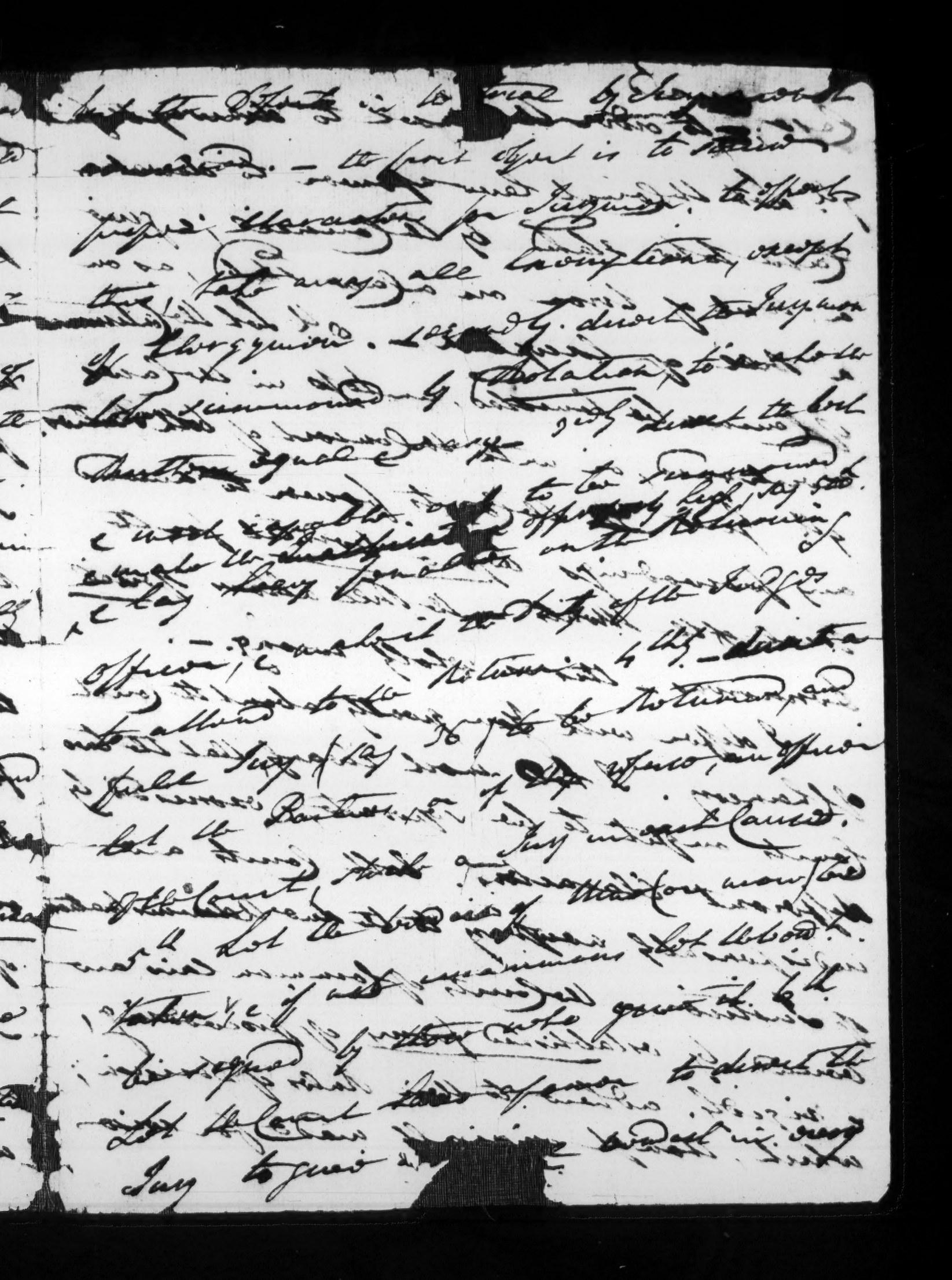
Bondfield
July 15 1779

Baltimore 6 July 1809.

(No 428)

My dear Sir

I am so little informed of what
has, that I never had opportunity for
doing, and I see no News Papers,
but I will do my profession, and
that will be what absorbs
principal attention engages my whole attention.
I have not yet to resolution, would
letter but to yourself, and Mr Henry. Have
to same affection, and attachment, a sense,
to my native County, and her rights, but
for my life, I do not mingle
from now, in all my public Speculations,
opinions. I have not abilities to pronounce Doctrines
of the present Times; but if you will send
the Publications you allude to, I
will peruse them in the hand of a Gentleman,
who, I believe, will do Justice to the Subject.



that the Commissioners take the Depositions in
the presence of the Parties, or their Counsel, who
may put any Questions to the Witnesses
desired, and also be present, by themselves,
that in any Cause Depositions be published
if any one party to the Suit, do
to decide the Matter in Dispute, the
Chancellor shall direct an
to be tried at the Court of Common Law,
summary way; and that the Chancellor
may also, in his Decree, or other collateral
fact direct an Issue; the Law may require
the Decision of the Legislature, that it be done
in all Cases, where it is convenient required
by the Parties. -

If the Jurisdiction of the Chancery is extended
as by the Bill, it will be of infinite Utility
In some of the States there are Chancery Courts,
(as in this State) and in the State Chancery Court
exercise

(Saml Chase & Letter)

(N° 428)

Courts, & Conveyances and Deeds. (Novr 63)

I hope you will excuse my thus troubling
you your time. I really feel an anxiety
on the subject. & with [illegible] good Administration
& Justice the people may be reconciled [illegible]
Property, which is [illegible] Dearest object with the
Duke of Wrankend [illegible] Liberty.

Adieu, my Dear Sir.
Health and happiness attend you.

Yours truly & sincerely.

Sam. Chase

Sept 64

Pin S. Mss (№429) July 23d 1789

My dear Friend

I thank you for your two Letters of the 18th & 24th of June. I was on a Visit to my Friends on James River when they arrived, otherwise I would sooner have acknowledged the receipt of them. I have read the Bill for establishing the federal Judiciary with Attention, & am happy to find that in the formation of it, the Senate have taken great Pains to remove from the Minds of the People the Apprehensions which they entertained of the Dangers which might arise under that part of the Constitution. As yet I have no Objections of any weight made to the Bill, nor do I perceive any Fault to be found with it, if it be not perfect, as soon as it begins to operate, its Imperfections will be diligently observed, & may be properly remedied. I am well pleased that the Impost Law has at last past, but particularly so, since it has been modified by the Senate, tho' still I think many of the Duties are too high. The Discrimination in the Tonnage, between Vessels belonging to Powers in Treaty with us, & those not, always appeared to me to be unwise. Our Object should be to conciliate to us all

the Nations of the Earth, & not to imitate them by petulant & indeed impotent Attacks. I am sorry that the Opinion of those who wished to adopt the Plan of Impost of '83 had not been followed; much Money would have been gained to the Treasury, & the Legislature would have had leisure to digest a proper Law of Impost. Is the Treasury of the United States to be placed in the Hands of one Person? or is it to be put into Commission? If three Men are more easy to be corrupted than one, then I would wish upon the Principles of Economy that one should be entrusted. But if it is not likely that three Men can hardly ever be so exactly of the same Sentiments & Principles as uniformly to agree in Plans of Fraud & Corruption, & as they will constitute a Check upon the Conduct of each, there seems to be more Security for the Public Money to have it placed in the Hands of Com.rs If the Treasury is put into the Hands of one Man, I fear there will be no Enquiry after the Thousands which are unaccounted for, & that the Defaulters will quietly enjoy their Spoil.

This will be delivered to you by Mr. Robt. Patten, of Fredbg, a worthy Gent.n whom, as such, I beg Leave to introduce to your Acquaintance. Mrs Page desires me to present her

respectful Compts to you.

I am, dear Sir

Mansfield
July 23rd 1789

With the sincerest Esteem

Your affec.te Friend
Hannah Page

Mann Page Jr. July 23d 1787.
18 Letters.
(No 429)
(No 369)

Mann Page
1789
No 369.

My dear Friend

I thank you for your two Letters of the 18th & 24th of June. I was on a Visit to my Friends on James River when they arrived, otherwise I would sooner have acknowledged the Receipt of them. I have read the Bill for establishing the federal Judiciary with attention, & am happy to find that in the formation of it, the Senate have taken great Pains to remove from the Minds of the People those Apprehensions which they entertained of the Dangers which might arise under that part of the Constitution. As yet I have heard no Objections of any Weight made to the Bill, nor do I perceive any Fault to be found with it. If it be not perfect; as soon as it begins to operate, its Imperfections will be distinctly observed, & may be properly remedied. I am well pleased that the Impost Law has at last past, but particularly so, since it has been modified by the Senate; tho' still I think many of the Duties are too high. The Discrimination in the Tonnage, between Vessels belonging to Powers in Treaty with us, & those not, always appeared to me to be unwise. Our Object should be to conciliate to us all the Nations of the Earth, & not to imitate them by petulant & indeed impotent Attacks. I am sorry that the Opinion of those who wished to adopt the Plan of Impost of '83 had not been followed; much Money would have been gained to the Treasury, & the Legislature would have had leisure to digest a proper Law of Imposts.

Is the Treasury of the United States to be placed in the Hands of one Person? or is it to be put into Commission? If three men are more easy to be corrupted than one, then I would wish upon the Principle of Economy that one should be intrusted. But if it is not likely that three Men can hardly ever be so exactly of the same Sentiments & Principles as uniformly to agree in Plans of Fraud or Corruption, & as they will constantly act as Spies upon the Conduct of each other, there seems to be more Security for the Public Money to have it placed in the Hands of the Comn. If the Treasury is put into the Hands of one Man, I fear there will be no Enquiry after the thousands which are un accounted for, & that the Defaulters will quietly enjoy this Sport.

This will be delivered to you by Mr. Robt. Patten, of Freds'burg, a worthy Gentn., whom, as such, I beg Leave to introduce to your Acquaintance. Mrs. Pages desires me to present her respectful Compts to you.

With the sincerest Esteem I am, dear Sir

Your Affecnte Friend
Mann Page

Mann's field
July 23rd 1789

[addressed:] Richard Henry Lee Esquire one of the Senators

from Virginia at New York

hand by
Mr. Patten

[endorsed:] Cicero de ligibus Lib 1&3
M. Page Esqr.

Ansd 13 Sept 79

Dear Sir, (№430) Philadelphia 31st July 1789.

We were surprised some days ago, with the hasty return of Frederick Phile, Esquire, naval officer of this port from New York, where he had spent some time in seeking to be reappointed to a similar station under Congress. His prospects, however, have been much darkened some days ago by an infamous slander, being carried to the President of the United States, viz.t, that Dr. Phile is become a confirmed habitual drunkard. Such an attempt, to injure this gentleman, had it been made in Philadelphia, would have been been truely ridiculous, but as he is little known at New York, it behooved him, as far as might be, to proove the negative, & he has left us again two days ago for the seat of Congress, with certificates from divers of the first characters here, attesting his well known sobriety. To some this base business may seem to be the issue of competition, but I rather attribute it to the rancour of party difference, and a wish to dismiss an officer of vigour, who tho not aided, as he ought with some out of door Surveyors & Searchers, yet was able to make several important seizures, the only source of any illwill to Dr. Phile. From the backwardness of our legislature to disburse a thousand per annum in preventitive arrangements, our import fell behind that of New York during the last year, the difference of £20,000, altho' our import be notoriously greater. Here the oath of the ships master was relied on for a full disclosure of the Cargo, of the inefficacy of which we had a [redacted] glimpse, on a late trial in the Supreme Court; Jonath. Williams, nephew of Dr. Franklin against Craig; when by shewing the Custom-house Entries of a Cargo of Wines, contrasted with the Invoice & Bills of Lading, it appeared that a full third was suppressed. Should Jury trial be allowed in actions in rem against seized ships & goods, I am

clear

clear, that no importer should be of the Jury. Here, we have found that such are not to be trusted.

You may have seen some remarks which were lately made in our prints on the comparative values, which have been proposed for foreign Coins in receiving the national duties. The author is unknown, and I am not qualified to pass an opinion on what he has said. But I am well apprized of the importance of the subject. I would also hint, that another circumstance is deserving the notice of Congress. It is the variant rates at which gold and silver pass, relative to each other, in the world. Thus in China, when the moderns opened the track by the South Cape of ~~Affrica~~ Africa, 10 pounds of silver would purchase a pound of gold. I understand that the quantities of silver, since sent to China, has lessened the value of silver. "A pound of standard gold, reckoning the Guinea at 21/, is worth in Spain & England, upwards of 15 pounds of standard silver; but in France, Holland and Germany, it is worth but 14½ pounds. Whence it is plain that if a pound of gold be imported from Germany, Holland, or France the dealer will get, by exchanging it for silver, half a pound of the latter. Some estimate this profit at 2½ per Cent." The preceding sentence is taken from a Book published in London in 1759, entitled, The Analysis of Trade, commerce, coin, bullion, banks & foreign exchanges, &c; by Philip Cantillon, merchant. I am possessed of but the account given by the London reviewers, who tho' not willing to allow the author literary abilities, yet allow that he understands the subjects of which he treats. It seems that Sir John Barnard & others, had accounted for the well known scarcity of silver in England, from the variance last mentioned, and had proposed various remedies. Mr Cantillon offers an other;

to

to sink the Guinea to 20/6. An unwillingness in government to unsettle the standard of money, & create uneasiness among the people. With us, the question would be whether follow France or England.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your most obed. servant

Geo. Bryan,

Hon.ble Richard Henry Lee, Esquire,

New York.

No 25 G. Bryan

FREE

Honorable

Richard Henry Lee, Esq.r

at

New-York.

Judge Bryan's com=
=cuning Dr. Hill's
the outhouses between
York & Silver buildings
31 July 1789. Rec.d the
of Dugust 1789.

No 25 Penn.
Gen.l Bryan
July 31st 1789.
1

(Pa 430)

1021

(343)

New York Aug.t 22.d 1789

Dear Sir,

The extreme hurry in which I have been these several days, to compare the merits & pretensions of the several applicants for appointments, under the Revenue law (in order that the nominations might speedily follow the passage of the Collection Bill) has prevented my acknowledging the receipt of your favor of the 27.th ult.o until this time.—

Mr. Charles Lee will certainly be brought forward as Collector of the Port of Alexandria—but for the reasons you have assigned, & from a persuasion that Mr. Fr.s Lee is under a mistake with respect to the supposed emoluments of the Office at Dumfries, I think it would be best that Scott should go there, which will give Roger Hanson (who is worthy of something better if with propriety it could be given to him) the Surveyorship at Alexandria.—

As I am perfectly unacquainted with the Port of Georgetown, and with the characters living there, I would thank you for naming a fit person as a Collector for that District by the bearer, or by ten o'clock A. M. to morrow.—

3141

I thought you looked badly the other day, but not having heard of your indisposition I said nothing — I hope your health is quite restored — (I am unable to visit you as usual (sofly) as I have assurances from the Doctors that in a few days more I may expect to be relieved from this inconvenience.) I am Dear Sir

Your most Obd. & very H. Sv.

G. Washington

+ The sentence
relative to the Brackets,
need not be copied
R H L —

The Hon.
Richd H. Lee

The Hon^ble

Rich^d Henry Lee

Geo. Washington
1785

My dear Sir

Boston August 24 1789

Your very acceptable Letter of the 8th Instant came to hand by the Post. You flatter me very much when you tell me that any sentiment of mine can relieve you. I have always been apprehensive that through the weakness of the human Mind often deviated even at the wisest and best of Men, or the perverseness of the intermeddling and designing, in all well ordered Governments; Alterations would be given to the Federal constitution, which would disappoint the Views, and expectations of the honest among those who acceded to it, and hazard the Liberty, Independence and Happiness of the People. I was particularly afraid that in the great care should be taken to prevent it, the Constitution in the Administration of it would gradually, but surely and imperceptably form into a consolidated Government pervading and legislating through all the States, not for Federal purposes only (as it professes) but in all cases whatsoever: such a Government would soon totally annihilate the Sovereignty of the several States so much sung by the Partizans

of

of the confederated commonwealth, and drink both in deep draughts. I know there have been called vulgar opinions, and prejudices: be it so - I think it is Lord Shaftsbury, who tells us, that it is folly to despise the opinions of the Vulgar; this aphorism, if indeed it is his, I eagerly catched from a Nobleman many years ago, whose writings on some accounts, I much admired. Should a strong Federalist as some call themselves see what I have now dropt from my Pen, he would say that I am an Antifed, an Amendment Monger &c; these are hardly vulgar terms, invented & used by some whose feelings would be sorely wounded if ranked among the kind of Men, as invented and used for the mean purpose of deceiving, and entrapping those whom they call the Vulgar; but in this "Enlightned" Age one should think there was no such Vulgar to be there amused, and ensnared. I mean, my friend, to let you know how deeply, I am impressed with a sense of the importance of Amendments; that the good People may clearly see the distinction, for there is a distinction, between the federal

Powers

vested in Congress, and the Sovereign Authority belonging to the several States, which is the Palladium of the private, and personal rights of the Citizens. I freely protest to you that I earnestly wish some Amendments may be judiciously, and deliberately made without partial or local Considerations & that there may be no uncomfortable Jarrings among the several Powers, that the whole People may in every State contemplate their own safety on solid grounds, and the Union of the States be perpetuable. I hope that you have recovered your health, so valuable to our Country — Your Letter requires a further Consideration — I will at present only express my astonishment at the change, and abhor Opinion of our former republican Connecticut friend — Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis ——

Your friend ——

J. Adams

Hon.ble Richard Hy. Lee Esqr

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Sam. Adams

Sec. of State
1789

Aug. 24, 1789.

My dear Sir Boston Aug. 29th. 1789.

The Power of removing federal Officers at the Pleasure of the President is to be found in the Constitution or it is not. If it is, what Need was there of an Act or Decision of Congress to authorize it? But if it is not, could Congress give so important a Power? What have the United States been contending for? Liberty. This is the great Object of their State Governments, and has not the federal Constitution the same Object in View? If therefore a Doubt arises respecting the Exercise of any Power, no Construction, I conceive, should militate with the main Design, or Object of the Charter. If there is a total Silence in the Constitution, is it not natural to conclude that an Officer holding during Pleasure is removable by the same Power which appointed him, whether vested in a single Person, or a joint Number? I am sensible it is said, that a single Person, being amenable for his Exercise of Power will use the utmost Circumspection. This may be true, but may not this Idea be carried too far in Practice? May not some Powers vested in a single Man give him such Weight and Influence as to render any Restraint from his feeling himself amenable of little, or no Effect. If this Power lodged in the Discretion of a single Person will afford a greater Security against Corruption because of his Amenability, why should not the Power of appointing as well as removing Officers be given to him? In the one Case the gracious Hand may be held forth, in the other, the threatning Rod; and both may be used for improper Purposes. In England, "the King can do no wrong" is a Maxim. His Ministers are made accountable for him; and how often have

cor

corrupt Ministers and Councellors been brought to the Block for Follies and Crimes committed by their Royal Masters who can do no Wrong? And it may also be asked, how often such Ministers and Councellors have found means to get themselves screened from Punishment through the Influence of their Masters, by procuring Parliamentary Sanctions to such Crimes and Follies? But in the Removal of Officers the President has not a Constitutional Council. He must therefore be solely accountable. I need not tell you who have known so thoroughly the Sentiments of my Heart, that I have always had a very high Esteem for the late Commander in Chief of our Armies; and I now most sincerely believe that while President Washington continues in the Chair he will be able to give to all good Men a satisfactory Reason for every Instance of his public Conduct. I feel myself constrained contrary to my usual Manner to make Professions of Sincerity on this Occasion because Dr. Gordon in his History of the Revolution, among many other Anecdotes innocent and trifling enough, has gravely said, that I was concerned in an Attempt to remove General Washington from Command; and mentions an anonymous Letter written to your late Governor Henry which I assure you I never saw nor heard of till I lately met with it in reading the History — This is a digression to which a Man of my Years is liable. ——

Who will succeed the present President for it is the Lot of Man to die? Perhaps the next and the next may

inherit his Vertues. But my Friend, I fear the Time will come, when a Bribe shall remove the most excellent Man from Office for the Purpose of making Room for the worst — It will be called an Error in Judgment — The Bribe will be concealed — It may however be vehemently suspected. & who, in Times of great Degeneracy will venture to — search out and detect the corrupt Practices of great Men? Unless a sufficient Check is provided and clearly ascertained for every Power given, will not the Constitution and the Liberties of the Citizens for want of such Checks be finally subverted. ——

A Gentleman of this Place who has suffered much for his Attachment to our Cause I conceive has Documents in his Hands which would be of Importance in the Settlement of the Eastern Boundary of the United States which appears to have been encroached upon by the British. I wrote to him long ago as last April to Mr Dalton respecting this Gentleman; but have never received an Answer. He I suppose is able to give you an Account of Mr Boyd the Name of the Gentleman refered to. I wish you would converse with Mr Dalton upon the Subject. The Vice President however is probably able and undoubtedly disposed to give you the fullest Account.

I am sincerely yours

J. Adams

P. S. Pray write to me and let me know the State of your Health. & pay my affectionate Regards to your Brother the Doctor. ——

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J. Adams

29th Aug. 1789

My dear Brother/ Aug.t 29.th 1809

Your note relative to Master Taylor reach'd me after the Packet had sailed, & there is no Ship here which promises to sail soon for London; Therefore I have not had an opportunity to write as you request. The law for the abolition of this board, is passed. In another week I propose setting out for Virg.a but I suppose it will be in October before I reach Mendhim. From there I mean to go to Rosegill, & Richmond town & return to winter here, having engaged the house I am in for a year before there was any idea of your being so speedily displaced. The world is all before me & I am not yet clear where I shall fix my future residence. My affairs are much deranged, as may well be supposed from

my long absence in public service. Prior having been fortunate in the manner which I have laid out the money I saved my situation will not be so independent as I expected. However my motto is - ever be cheerful — Our Brother Rich'd is in tolerable good health & William. I think will recover his sight notwithstanding the outrageous affair of Masons, which you may well imagine has vexed him much but without reason. He is much better in health. The Congress, as you may have heard, have determined to adjourn on the 22 of next month. The Judiciary bill is now under consideration of the House of Representatives, & will be passed I hope next week, this will close the most important business of the Session unless that of determining the future seat of the federal government, which be seriously taken up, as it progress to

be done, next thursday. The plan now projected is to unite the southern middle states by establishing the permanent Seat on Potowmack the temporary residence in Philadelphia. New York & New England will oppose, but not with effect. Being once transferred to Philadelphia we need not expect a removal in our day. Give my Love to Mrs Lee — I have several families of Quakers here who are very merry. I shall bring one of them for Mrs Lee The spirit of emigration is so general that I think it will not be difficult to prevail on them to domesticate themselves at Menokin. Mr Campbells Bill on me is paid.

The Europeans seem all preparing for war. The States general of France dont harmonize and probably will do little. The young Emperor of the Ottomans is determined to draw his longest Sabre on the russian Empress. She is as determined to make him sheath it

I should judge that in such a contest, the Lady will prove victorious.

Of the acts of our Congress this Session the public will be enabled to judge for they have been all made publics. The delay of the Impost Bill was a Philadelphian manoeuvre but is wonderful that the rest should have so unadvisedly concurred. The public has lost near a million by it, which is grievous in its present necessities. The B^rs. desire their love to mention Ladies

Dear Sir, [illegible]

N. York September 27. 1789

Yesterday's post brought me your favor of Aug.t the 20th and also the general letter to the Representation of Virg.a concerning the P. E. Academy. As Congress adjourn the day after tomorrow when we shall betake to Virginia, it will not be much in our power, before the next meeting, to attend to that business as we wish to do. however, what can be done shall be done. The letter you state to have been written previous to this upon the subject of the Academy has not come to hand. We propose to advertise in the most read Gazette that such a Character is wanted, stating the terms generally, and to propose that the person willing to accept the trust address to the Trustees, or by Letter to settle the point with them as far as can be done in that manner. I fear that such a person as would be agreeable is not easy to be found disengaged, and at all events that he will expect a very considerable Salary, since very large salarys are given in these parts on such occasions. My third letter to you on the 14th inst. will satisfy you how little is to be expected from Congress that shall be any ways satisfactory on the Subject of Amendments. Your observation is perfectly right just, that right without power to protect it, is of little avail. Yet small as it is, how wonderfully ingenious have they been in stating rights? The english language has been carefully culled to find words feeble in their Nature or doubtful in their meaning! The power of displacing Officers was contested with a zeal and constancy that the nature of it deserved. In the Senate we were devided, so that the V. P. determined the question, as you will see in the Journal. This is one of the ill consequences derived from giving a person the right of voting in the Senate who is not a Member of it, and who has so probable a headest [sic] as he may think of coming to the Profession of that Power which he agrees to magnify.

The contenders for this measure insisted that the Constitution gave the powers. This was at once to make it both absurd and arbitrary.

because it expressly gives the P. a right to call upon the officers for information in writing concerning their departments — how ridiculous then if it intended him the power to remove them from office at his pleasure? — What not a right to give political death, and say that the person so vested may demand a paper from him over whom he can exercise dictation!

The next attempt, and which will probably succeed, is to send forth all process in the name of the P. instead of the U. S. only — Here is another absurdity. In England, they say the King can do no wrong. But here the P. may be impeached: There, process in name of the Culprit is not to issue for bringing Witnesses to try him at the Bar where he is put upon his defence, but here it may. But, where Consolidation is the plan, the States authority must be kept out of view as much as possible, and the head of the Empire shewn as much as may be. These things demonstrate the Vigilance necessary to guard against encroachments, as was suggested in my last Letter. The appointments to Offices in the great and influential departments, are pretty universally among the most zealous federalists, the Salaries are vast, and the State departments and supports weakened by the drafts in this way made from them. Consolidation must therefore inevitably take place in process of time, without great care and much wisdom on the part of the States. The cause of public liberty and the success and strength of the Union depending essentially, in my opinion, upon the System of Confederated Republics, every wise and proper measure should be invariably pursued by the friends of freedom both in the State and federal governments to secure from invasion the just rights of the former. Let us take counsel from what we see, and fill our State Offices with Men of known attachments to Radical Amendments, and whose firmness and abilities may serve as a counterpoise to any attempts that may be made against State rights. Upon this principle, which appears to me to be not only wise but necessary, I recommend my brother A. Lee Esq.r to your friendship. He is devoted to liberty, and has greatly suffered in its cause; he has been thoroughly bred to Law, he has taken the Barristers Gown and has pleaded with applause

applause at the English Bar before he quitted it to serve his country as a foreign Minister of the U. States. He has been deeply versed in politics, and intimately knows those of America. I refer you to him for a more lengthened detail of politics and opinions here than it is convenient for me to write. If his opposition to the Constitution should have been a ~~cau~~ yielding his abilities, and long public services from this system, it seems to be a powerful reason for admitting him into the service of the State, where I believe he will be eminently useful.

By an Address, received two days ago from the Assembly of R. Island, copy of which I will send you by my brother, it is the federal government, it appears to me as if they intended to keep out of this Union until effectual Amendments were made — We ought in common prudence to have done the same — Does N. C design to act in the same manner — I am dear Sir, with the most affectionate esteem your friend & servant

Richard Henry Lee

I refer you to my last letter for further observations on Gen. Martin — You will see by that how the manner of treating with the Indians necessarily prevented his appointment, if other difficulties had been removed — But at present, no such office as a standing Indian Agent is authorised — The Governor of the Western Territory is charged with such affairs —

To his Excellency the Governor of Vir:
:ginia

New York Sept^r 28.^th 1789.

Sir

We have long wailed in anxious expect:
:ations, of having it in our power to trans:
:mit effectual amendments to the Consti=
:tution of the United States, and it is with
grief that we now send forward propos:
:itions inadequate to the purpose of real
and substantial amendments, and so
far short of the wishes of our country. By
perusing the Journal of the Senate, your
Excellency will see, that we did, in vain,
bring to view the Amendments propo:
:sed by our Convention, and approved by
the Legislature. We shall transmit a com
:plete set of the Journals of both Houses of
Congress to your address, which with a
Letter accompanying them, we entreat
your Excellency will have the goodness

to

representation on, sufficiently near to the People for procuring their confidence and consequent obedience, compels a resort to fear, resulting from great force and excessive power in government. Confederated Republics, where the Federal Hand is not possessed of absorbing power, may permit the existence of freedom, whilst it preserves union, strength, and safety. Such amendments therefore as may secure against the annihilation of the State governments we devoutly wish to see adopted.

If a persevering application to Congress from the States that have desired such amendments, should fail of its object, we are disposed to think, reasoning from causes to effects, that unless a dangerous apathy should invade the public mind, it will not be many years before a constitutional number of Legislatures will be found to demand a Convention for the purpose.

We

to lay before the Honorable Legislature
of the ensuing meeting.

We have the honor, of every sentiment
of respect, to be Sir,

Your Excellency's
most obedient,
and
very Humble Servants
(signed) Richard Henry Lee.
William Grayson.

The honorable the Speaker of the House
of Representatives in Virginia.

New York Sept^r. 28^th. 1789.

Sir,

We have now the honor of enclosing
the proposition of Amendments to the
Constitution of the United States that
has been finally agreed upon by Congress.
We can assure you, Sir, that nothing on our
part has been omitted, to procure the
success of those radical Amendments
pro-

proposed by the Convention, and approved by the Legislature of our Country, which as our constituent we shall always deem it our duty with respect and reverence to obey. The Journal of the Senate herewith transmitted, will at once shew exact and how unfortunate we have been in this busineſs. It is impoſſible for us not to see the neceſsary tendency to consolid~~ated~~ empire in the natural operation of the Constitution, if no further amended then as now proposed; and it is equally impoſsible for us not to be apprehensive for civil liberty, when we know of no inſtance in the records of history, that Free a People ruled in freedom when subject to one undivided government, and inhabiting a territory so extensive as that of the United States, and when it seems, to us, the nature of man, and of things join to prevent it. The impracticability in such case, of carrying

re.

We have sent a complete set of the Journals of each house of Congress, and through the appointed channel will be transmitted the acts that have passed this session; in these will be seen the nature and extent of the Judiciary, the estimated expences of the government, and the means so far adopted for defraying the latter.

We beg, Sir, to be presented with all due to the Honorable House of Representatives, and to assure you that we are with every sentiment of respect & esteem.

Sir.

your most obedient,
and very Humble Servants.

Signed Richard Henry Lee.
William Grayson.

Messrs. Lee & Grayson's
Letter a Copy

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To his EXCELLENCY *the* GOVERNOR *of* VIRGINIA.

NEW-YORK, SEPTEMBER 28, 1789.

SIR,

WE have long waited in anxious expectations, of having it in our power to transmit effectual Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, and it is with grief that we now send forward propositions inadequate to the purpose of real and substantial Amendments, and so far short of the wishes of our Country. By perusing the Journal of the Senate, your Excellency will see, that we did, in vain, bring to view the Amendments proposed by our Convention, and approved by the Legislature. We shall transmit a complete set of the Journals of both Houses of Congress to your address, which with a letter accompanying them, we entreat your Excellency will have the goodness to lay before the Honorable Legislature of the ensuing meeting.

We have the honor, of every sentiment of respect,
To be, Sir, your Excellency's most obedient,
And very humble servants,

RICHARD HENRY LEE.
WILLIAM GRAYSON.

The Honorable *the* SPEAKER *of the* House *of* Representatives *in* Virginia.

NEW-YORK, SEPTEMBER 28, 1789.

SIR,

WE have now the honor of enclosing the proposition of Amendments to the Constitution of the United States that has been finally agreed upon by Congress. We can assure you sir, that nothing on our part has been omitted, to procure the success of those radical amendments proposed by the Convention, and approved by the Legislature of our Country, which as our constituent we shall always deem it our duty with respect and reverence to obey. The Journal of the Senate herewith transmitted, will at once shew exact and how unfortunate we have been in this business. It is impossible for us not to see the necessary tendency to consolidated empire in the natural operation of the Constitution, if no further amended than as now proposed; and it is equally impossible for us not to be apprehensive for Civil Liberty, when we know of no instance in the records of history, that shew a people ruled in freedom when subject to one undivided Government, and inhabiting a territory so extensive as that of the United States; and when, as it seems to us, the nature of man, and of things join to prevent it. The impracticability in such case, of carrying representation on sufficiently near to the people for procuring their confidence and consequent obedience, compels a resort to fear resulting from great force and excessive power in government. Confederated republics, where the Federal Hand is not possessed of absorbing power, may permit the existence of freedom, whilst it preserves union, strength, and safety. Such amendments therefore as may secure against the annihilation of the state governments we devoutly wish to see adopted.

If a persevering application to Congress from the states that have desired such amendments, should fail of its object, we are disposed to think, reasoning from causes to effects, that unless a dangerous apathy should invade the public mind, it will not be many years before a constitutional number of Legislatures will be found to demand Convention for the purpose.

We have sent a complete set of the Journals of each House of Congress, and through the appointed channel will be transmitted the Acts that have passed this session, in these will be seen the nature and extent of the judiciary, the estimated expences of the government, and the means so far adopted for defraying the latter.

We beg sir, to be presented with all duty to the Honorable House of Representatives, and to assure you that we are with every sentiment of respect and esteem,

Sir your most obedient and very humble servants,

RICHARD HENRY LEE.
WILLIAM GRAYSON.

Sir (Copy) New York Sept^br 20: 1789

We have now the honor of enclosing the proposition of Amendments to the Constitution of the United States that has been finally agreed upon by Congress. We can assure you Sir that nothing on our part has been omitted to procure the success of those Radical Amendments proposed by the Convention and approved by the Legislature of our Country, which as our Constituent we shall always deem our duty with respect and reverence to obey. The Journal of the Senate herewith transmitted will state once more how hard and how unfortunate we have been in this business. It is impossible for us not to see the necessary tendency to consolidated Empire in the natural operation of the Constitution if no further Amendment than now proposed And it is equally impossible for us not to be apprehensive for Civil liberty when we know no instance in the Records of history that there a people have continued for any long subjected to an undivided Government and not lost their

a Territory so extensive as that of the United States, and when, as it seems to us, the nature of Men and things join to prevent it. The impracticability in such case of carrying representation sufficiently near to the People for procuring their confidence and consequent obedience compels a resort to fear resulting from great force and excessive power in Government. Confederated Republics when the Federal Hand is not possessed of absorbing power may permit the existance of freedom while it preserves Union, Strength, and Safety; such amendments they as may secure against the annihilation of the State Governments we devoutly wish to see adopted.

If a persevering application to Congress from the States that have desired such Amendments should fail of its objects we are disposed to think, reasoning from Causes to effects, that unless a dangerous apathy should invade the public mind it will not be many years before a Constitutional number of Legislatures will be found to demand a Convention for the purpose. We have sent a complete set of the Journals of each house of Congress and have the appointed Chairmen of the Committees

the Acts that have passed this Session. In these will be seen the ~~nature~~ extent and nature of the Judiciary the estimated expences of the Government and the means so far adopted for defraying the latter.

We beg Sir to be presented with all duty to the house of Representatives and to assure you that we are with every sentiment of respect and esteem Sir Your most Obedient and very humble Servants

Richard Henry Lee

Wm Grayson

The complete set of Journals is ordered to be sent to each State by the respective Clerks with the Laws. They are not now ready...

Hon.ble The Speaker of the House of Representatives Virginia

From Swan's National Arithmetic

Value of the Imports from Virginia in 1784.

	£ Sterl$
Tobacco 84,000 hhd$.	720,000
Lumber, Palables, Skins, Iron, Tar Turpentine, Ships, Hemp, Snakeroot &c$	333,000
	1053,000
D$. Massachusetts in 1784.	
Spermaceti Oil 40,000 blls a 3 pr bll.	200,000
D$. Candles 520,000 ℔ a 2/6 pr ℔	65000
Brown Oil from the right Whale 10,000 blls a £3,5.	32500
Whalebone 20 ton a £250.	5,000
Pott & pearl Ash 2000 ton a £35.	70,000
Codfish dried 80000 Quint$ to Spain & Portugal a 4 dlls pr Quint.	72000
D$. 200000 Quint$ to Surinam & other ports of the W. Indies a 3 dlls.	135,000
	337,500
Liver Oil 6500 blls a 2,5 pr bll.	12600
Flax Seed 15000 hhds 2,10.	37300
Ships, lumber, provision, Ship timber beeswax, furs, pultry,	250,000
Rum 10000 hhd$. a 6 pr hhd.	60,000
	949,400.

(11)

Cod Fishery employed in 1765 Mackerel Do.

Vessels	Tonnage	Men	Vessels Bbls Produce
1100 Sail	99,000	20,000	100. 15000. 117,500 Dls

This from 1100 hands
half Boys in 4 Months

State of the Debt of Massachusetts in 1785
from Swans Political Arithmetic

Consolidated Notes payable in 1785		£107595,17,11
Do	1786	345410,19,8
Do	1787	358551,15,8
Do	1788	345410,19,8
Do	1789	237825.1.9
Total		£1,394,808,14,10.
Arrear unprovided for		£ 10114,4.4

Annual Expence

Delegates to Congress	£ 1971
Governor	1100
Judges Supreme 5.	1770
Secretary & Clerks	688,4
Treasurer & Do.	1006,16
Commissy. genl. & Do.	243,18
Grant to Professors of Harvard College	500,
Clerks to Assembly	240
Messengers to Govr. Council & Gen Court	220.17
Garrison of Castle	2080
Pay of Gen Court	10103,8
Herbenteny	600,
Comm. of Elections	469,10
Wood Candles Stat.	120
Survey. & Sold Lands	924.10
	£22138,3
Interest on the State Debt	£83478,10,6
Total ann. Demand	£105,616, 13,6.

Annual Demand &c. for over £ 10561 6,13,6

Nett Amount of Import, Excise
tax on Writs, Advertisements
Admissn. of Lawyers &c —— £ 5023 7,11,6
Public Vendue tax —— 395,-6 5063 2,12

Abstract of Sums due on the Register of the U.S.

Debtors.	D/ls C. Exc.	Specie.
Hon.ble G. Plater		p.d June 10, 1779 not accounted
F. L. Lee Jr.		for by M. Dorce who is dead
Banister		
Ch.s Carrol		
T. Hartley		
W.m H. Drayton		
Jn.o Matheus	2666.66	
D.r Roberdeau		
W.m Duer		
G.r Morris		
on their		
note for		
money ads.d		
to M.r Dorce		
Govern.r		
Morris	656.90	p.d 4th Jan.y 1779
Rubsamen	506.11	Nov.r & Dec.r 75. March 1776
Sullivan		
W.m Sherspn		
Matheus	18264	5 Jan.y 1781.
Wm Bland		
B. Franklin		
S. Chase		
Ch. Carrol	3930.60	1776
R. T. Paine	6666.66	May 15 1776
D.o D.o	30	June 28.th 1776
C. Carrol	124	July 12. 1776
S. Adams	200	Col. Walter Stewart rec.d it Jan.y 2 1777
D.r W. Sher-		
-spoon	6000	June 6.th 1779
R. R. Le-		
-vingston	245	1775

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	Dll. O. E. Spence		
Robert Morris	14800		Rec.d the 24.R May 1776 in payment for £3000 Bills rec.d & rec.d were returnd to him unpaid
N. Gorham	281		For Committee to Trenton
Ph: Schyler	1200		June 24. 1780
N.e Peabody	1623		Sept.r 1780
R.t Morris	1000		Oct.r 28.R 1776
G. Ross	500		Oct.r 24.R Do.
St.n Cerronio Cape Francois		78.30	Balance due
B. Lavaud		6521.5.7	Balance due
Do		3605.45	
John Dupuy		3605.5.7	Cape Francois on charge of Bernard Lavaud. no Voucher
G. Eddy	90.83		Due on Tobacco Negociation Governeur Morris told the Register that some Sums would probably be due to the U.S. on that transaction when a Set on the English Admiralty was settled
2.e Newfoundld Dr	91773.41	91773.41	Suspence Account
Brig Active		95.84	Mr. Morris says She was Stolen
Tobac.o Acct		2531.29	Loss on the purchase of Danl Clarke sold to Geor.s Eddy.
Turnbull Ingate & Spitfire		3119.86	Mr Morris states 500 Hhds Tobacco captured in the Turnbull & 100 chargeable to Blair Maclenaghan

T. Barclay	D. Emp.	Specie 3804.69	For Indigo received by the Washington.
Loss		4198.55	By Paroles Ulrica Jobs.
Ship G. Washington		29085.82.	See Marine Settlemt.
Ship D. Laurens.		52,002.2	Sold for D.W. 7455 T. Barclay accountable
Ship America		68274.68	Presented to Louis XVI.
		New Emp.	
Jams Warren	63.30		Balance due
Joseph Clay	343,468.	57,615.	his Salary to settle
Joseph Clay		Specie 747.50	
		2000	
Wm Blount. N.C.	1,104,000		No account
Jon. Hudson, Baltimore	158000		No Acct. dead — Pay Mrs
Jo. Berryman	348355.	N. Emp. 18381.74	D. P. M. Westn. Department
Jno Sand. Darl. D.P.	238042.		S. Carola. no Acct.
Bn. Harrison P.M.	1643862	75556.30	Virga. Acct. under examinath.
Ebn: Hancock.	1512,801		Boston No Acct. ordered
	2078442		
Jn Baynton. D.P.	809.66		Balance on Settlemt.
Hez: Whitemore	3524.		No account
Amed: Chessel	162.		A. D. P. M.
Blaine & Wilson		Specie 15.76	Balance on Settlemt
Saml Wallace		6354.	North County Pennsylvania
Genl Howe	16292		from July to Decr 1779.
Genl Arnold	71351.44		Augt 1779
	3798.65.		
Genl Wooster	1269.50.		Balance due on Settlemt
Genl M'Dougal		933.34.	

	C. Emis.	Specie	
Gen.l Heath	330,000	Specie	Advanced unaccounted for
Gl. Moultrie	31921		May 16. 1781. April 1. 1782.
Gl. Lincoln		488.66	
Gl. Green		372.53	Balance on Settlem.t
Gl. Knox		35362.37	Settl.d to 31. Dec.r 1787. Bal.e unsettl.d
Capt. Ayatt.		300	Settled in N. doubly Insured thro same hands.
T. H. Condy		5353.	Advanced & not accounted for
Jn.o Wades		12270.	Advanced?
Corn.s Sheriff		3150	Balance on Settlem.t
Col. Harman		1000.	Advanced for Cont.l Serv.ce
Col. H. Jackson		2438.35	
Capt.n Thomas		39	Balance due on settlem.t
Lieut. W. S. Smith		9330	
Col. L. Morris jun.r		80	10 Sept.r 1781
Col. Ch.s Harrison		200	
L.t Col.o Carleton	8000		May 1781
Sl. Hodgdon	46531	61707.50	His accounts have been reported but not settled. The Balances stated as then are N. E. 7080.36 Specie 2403.53 Sterling 499.22 = Specie 10950.72
		N. Em. 20877.	
Benj.a Flower	6 471,272.		
	151,144	6610.53	
Cor.s Sweers	31694		Balance on Settlem.t
Jn.o Shearman	1000		
Ja.s Rubroman	333.30		
Mark Bird	2000		
DDS. Hughes	238333		

A Statement of Sums due on the Register of the U.S.

	C.Q.	N.Em.	
S.L. Wheeler	2133		16 apl. 1777
Dan.l Jay	600		of Philadelp.a p.d for Services
H.y V.n Ranslaer	1000		March 11. 1777
Philip Van. ranslaer	40496	12361	Balance due on Settlem.t
R.d Coleman		Shew 400	
S.L. West	2666.66		Mary.d 2.d July 1779
Calvin & Co.	8000		2.d Nov.r 1779
Wm. Humphreys	13333		23 Oct.r 1779
R.d Frothingham	35000	3357	
Do		N.Em. 1350	
J.n Ruddock	1635		
B.l Cruttenden		Shew 540.27	Balance due on Settlem.t
S.r Chevers	100000		
Wm Thorne	700167		settled
J.n Hines		60	
Allen		14	
Jn Jordain		53.82	
Wm Bennet	2000		
J.n McHenry		700	
Wm Dunn	22		
Wm Stewart	283		
Jam. Mallack	246		
J.n Roberts	41		
Jud. Allen	50		
G.L Clarkson	59950	1521	
Lepe Bronne	6000		
Chas. Bulkley	6500		

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J.s Hillegas	6.E.	N.Y.			
late Comp.y	860.74	215.81	Balance on Settlem.t		
D.o of D.o	800		21. Aug.t	1776.	accountable only for 200 – the Register notes that when applying for Settlem.t
Evans & Shelet	133.30		advanced Dec.r 31	1776	
J.s Gibson	1763 39.34		The true balance due on settlem.t 21 Feb.y 1782 was 2278 1.40		
Wm Jones	119				
B.n Stoddart	5833.		Aug.t 1780.		
Jn.o White	11100	1060	Adv.d in 1780		
Jn.o Hopkins L. O. Virg.a		Specie 160		Advance to Foster Webb.	
R.d Peters		514.60	On Account		
Wm.d Duer		750			
G. A. Hall		7.12	Balance on settlem.t		
Ez. Cornell		300	Advanced on Acc.t		
Do		N. Em. 5800 Specie			
Col. Laurens		1224			
J.s Carleton		194.47	Balance due on Settlem.t		
G.l Lincoln		439.86	The Genl in his settlem.t ask.d by him & J. Hopkins Comm.y of Prisoners & had credit for it, but Hopkins never produced the Genls receit for repayment so that he owes it to the Public		
Capt. Hull & Lieut. Livingston & Lieut. Schalk & Anstruther & A. H. Brice	Bridge's Quart.r Master's Stores 983		1785.		
W. Hoffman	2666.60		for Paper delec.d		
H. Dawkins	1500.		for Engraving		
Signer & Gig	200		for Painting		
J.s M.cPherson	300				
Mr. Bellisle	3400		of Jane.y 2.d April 1776 for Bills of Exchange never paid		
M. Rezeville	300		Canada for Bills not paid		
M. Gregson	100		Do Do		
M. Mesplet	200	Specie 426.45	Printg from Canada Advanced on Account. March 12. 1776		

a memorand that the advance was paid after the settlem.t – a circumstance which ought to be noted for a Comptroller to make allowance

	U. S.	N. S.	
Jh. Oppenheim	2000		12 Aug.st 1778
Rudolph & Co	3000		12 Sept.r 1777
Eben.r Hazard	1000		advanced 20.th July 1780 to enable him to collect Hist.l State Papers
G.e Moore N.C.	6250		Dec.r 2. 1777
M. Gerard			
M. of Torene	1200		12 July 1778
R.d Westcott Egg harbor	28000		13 Jan.ry 1780.
Jn.o Holker			
Com.s of Treas.y	741,404		See his Acct.s
Th.s Bee. S.C.	2500		Balance acknowledged due
Hall & Sellers	210,250	1160	from 24 Oct.r 1777 to 28 April 1781
Delaolande & Fenjee		Specie 36556	on account rendered.
Jn.o Adams		81,489	His Holland Acct
B.j.n Franklin		396.10	Charged by Mr. J. Adams
Th.s Barclay		7639	
Th.s Jefferson		2853	advanced since settlement
W.m Smith		2789.	in 31. March 1783 on account
M.s Swarton		386.10	advanced him in Holland
Constable			
Richard & C.o		8000	
M.r Vicard	N. S. 17468	1500.	advanced on Acct
Hall			
Gilchrist		20	Bal.ce due on Settlem.t
A. Donaldson	2666		adv.d 14 Sept.r 1780
Wm Edgar	20 [illegible]2	20772	To pay Claiments in the Bon hommes R.d Settled
Jn.o Ohara.		20691	Contractor on Acct. Settled
Elliot & Williams		20000	Contractors on Acct.
Th.s Walker		1500	Canada

M. Carboneux	D. Q.	Speir	
Judge Pendleton		300	Agent for the Cherokees
		46.60	
Wm Paulding		3266	
D.o Parker & Co.		38829.37	Balance due on Settlement
L. Col. Nevers			
& Capt. S. Rogers	15000		7 April 1779
Post Office	200943	15103	Paid on this Account Speir
D.o		N. Q. 8032.20	16234.24
Wm Goddard	160		
J. Bell	2742		
Barclay &			
S. Meredith	381,589	Speir 509.8	Agents to the P. Bank
Lt Wm Jones		90.40	
Capt. G. Turner		606	Vouchers defective
Wm Duer		952.65	Vouchers defective.
Gardoqui & Co.		2606	Difference between the Monies p.d them by the Hon.le A. Lee & the amount of their Invoices. I believe this is a mistake A. Lee
Fr. Cazaux		1000.	
Dumas		3952.	
Capt.n L. Phelan		1000	
Marquis La Fayette		6888	Discharged by his Bond given for the Public
S. T. Mason	2000		6th. 30 - 1777.
Ludwig Lauwignt & Wm Atlee	13000		
Jos.h & Jn.o Mercereau	7235		Accounts stated not passed.
A. Buchanan	300.		

	D.[illegible]	Specie	
Col. Wood Winchester		1550.	For Prisoners but not accounted
[redacted]			
Hugh Swinton	2435.	- - -	24 Jan.y 1782.
Ex.r Wil-			
liams	8500		
Elias			
Boudinot	75413	27507	Acct stated but not admitted
Mr. Rawlins	- - - -	133.34	
Lewis Pin-			
tard - - - -		75120	Deputy to Boudinot Billy
			Exchange Accounts for.
- - - - - - - -	- - - -	100,991	Stated but not admitted
Col. Kennedy	3000	- - - -	Dec.r 1781
Col. Wood	1500	- - - - -	Apr.l 1781 sent him to Winchester
Gr. Montfort	- - -	3647.	For the use of Prisoners Hostages
Commrs			
Indian Affrs			
W. depart.t	8512	- - -	12 July 1775. Philip Schuyler Dan
W.m Dowe	45639		from Dec.r 1777 to Dec.r 1780
	11220		
Indian Com.rs			
W. Depart.t	5329		1776. Franklin Wilson &c
Ph. Schuyler		200	
R.d Butler		500	Vouches deputies
G.d St Clair		11633.	Advance on Account
D.r Witherspoon		365	advanced to him for Col.
G.o Brackenridge	144922.		G. Morgan but not paid
D. Sawer	20216		Lottery Office keeper no
			acct settled
Moses			
Williams	44270		Lottery Agents
G.o Williams	982619		
Sam.l Tuffts	9		

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Jo: R Rutsel	O. C. 5040		no acct
J. Brown	59040		no acct
Clarke & Nightingale	111601		Settled.
Dav: Trumbull	91841.30		Settled & bal. due the U. S.
Thad. Burr.	87128		541 3 w Int. from May 1778
Wm. Hobby	36000		Settled
An: Huntington	100000		Settled & bal. in specie
D. Austin	90000		due 122 64
			Settled
J. Gray.	99000		
Rev. Laurence	27966		
T. Hosmer	45161		Settled bal. due 1st: 644 65
El. Sheddon	54000		no acct
Jo Loudon	65850		no acct
Ph: Livingston	54000		Do
Cor: Tenbrock	270000		
Lew: Gansevoort	28360		
G. Schyler.	63000		no acct
Lew: Clarkson	1540		
W. Vanderk	13194		
More Furman	112755		
Gov. Livingston	9000		
J. Caldwell	95470.		
J. Kennedy	862		
Abra Brown	6620		
Jh Borden	18274		
Wm Palfrey	66		Balance due
Th: Smith	1710		
J. Benezet	320		

	O. S.	N. S
Jh Lennons	1470.	
Wm A Lee	380	
Gc Kennedy	900	
Wm Govet.	1020	
Paul Fooks	24630	
Th: Wharton	5910	
R. H. McGerme	700	
Rie. Dalham	878	
Jn Purviance	215,051.	
Jn Gerry	220	
Jn Carnan	6070	
Jn Davidson	69664	
Th: Richard.	59042	
George Wibb.	409902	
Jeeldens deus	56071	
Wm Orr.	99078.15	
Rob: Johnson	52670	
Th: Getl	52560	
Jos: Watson	108,408	
Nic: Hower	750	
Genl Washington.	5370	
Hughes & Smith	103180	
Clarkson Dor		
sues & Smith	360,000	
Alex Hollegas	11,003595	1,773481
Mechael Hollegas	Do	Specie 2,919798

Franc: Hopkinson		80	Treasurer of Loans could not
Nic: Gilman	L.O.	N. S 6,30	acquiesce in Settlemt for this Bill
Nat. Appleton	Do 3834,526		of Exchange
	587,762		Recd but not counted
	1200		L.O. Certificates in his hands
		Spec: 2.36	Balance due on Settlemt
		N. S 67951.31	

Jno Clarke	O. R.	N. R.	
L.O. R. Island	2978,000	82137	Sd Thurn has succeeded & writes 3d Dec. 1790 that the Books & Papers of the Sd Clarke are delivered & will be transmitted to May. Hasket But that it does not appear by them that there remains any in his hands
		Spruce	
		1500	
		1500	
		36	
		130260	
		38600	
			In Bills of Sack. — 360
			In L.O. Certificates 1.109.600
Der Tenbrock			
L.O. N. York	2800,000	62,880	Has not been settled by the Commissioner for N. Y. but not ordered by the Board
Ab. Gales Do	441.429	81606	
		56000	
Jno Barclay	456 600	1030	
L.O. N. Jersey	4396	109602	
		56000	not settled.
		N. R.	
		454,598	
H. Smith		Spruce	
L.O. Philad.	1085,301	19509.44	
		10920	not settled
		533220	
		100.371.71	
Jno Patterson			
Delaware	934000	720	Attempted to be stated but in vain
		8790	
		N. R.	
		110560	
Th. Harwood	3311796	577341	Have been stated known with the Accounts
Maryland	4672000	Spruce	
		2520	
		2324	
		20170	

Jn° Hopkins	N. L.	Spain	
Virginia	25000	13935	Said to be settled
	1407,912	1176	by Lt° Dunscomb
		31660	but not forwarded
		~~4996~~	
Wm Symmes			
Do Do	O. L.		
	3547,000	9270	No Settlement
Jn° Green			
N. L.	1674500	6300	No Accounts rendered or stated
Gibbs, Parker & Blake			
N. L.	4573400	2920	Do Do
Parker			
Do		500	Charge for removal when the Enemy came
Obrien Wade	1169600		No Accounts rendered or ~~stated~~
Jn° Lovell			
Receiver		2770,32	Arrears in the
Dist° N. L.			
G. Olney R. I.		1455.79	Administration
H. Merrill Con°		1075.31	which he ought to
Th° Tillotson N. York		1037.00	have seen settled
Wm Geddes Delaware		3093.68	or have sued for
G. Webb Virg°		28,595.46	them N. L.

Sig° Joseph Nourse Reg°
J. Hardy Acc°

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(No 163)

Sir,

No date

I return you the book that you had the goodness to lend me, and I pray you Sir to accept my thanks for the pleasure and instruction that I have rec.d from reading it. It appears to me, that if France shall be so happy as to profit from the opportunity presented by a good king, in a time of peace, and in an enlightened age; to establish a free & well ballanced constitution, that she will soon become the happiest & most powerful nation in the world — A right beginning is essential to a right end, & therefore the Author has contended for the former with great propriety — I think he has demonstrated the weakness of this plan, by shewing the pernicious consequences that in former times have been derived from a contrary practice.

I have the honor to be, with consideration of the highest respect & esteem — Sir

your most obedient and very humble servant

Richard Henry Lee

Monsieur

le Comte de Moustier.

Letter from
R. H. Lee
to
Count Mousthier
about
the French nation

(No 229.)

No 229

The Honble
Richd H. Lee esqr
New York

(No 203)

In Congress
Brunswick Feby
[illegible]
Commissioners

Extracts from Mr. Neckar on Finance

However in proportion as a man has acquired the reputation of great honesty, we become more severe upon him, we follow him in all his actions, we compare him to himself, we require that he should faithfully adhere to the model he has established; for the least fault he is thought guilty of, we are ready to rank him among the common class, & to liberate ourselves from the tribute of esteem, the continuance of which becomes, to the greatest part of those that payd, either fatiguing or tiresome." Introduct.n p. xv.

What would become of Society if the public good depended on the union of a Minister should discover between the advantage of the State & his own interest? Who would answer for the exactness of the calculations of a man so self sish, & destitute of every other care than his should even be supposed to have

have the most enlightned judgment, to shut dangers should we not be exposed? The man who considers himself only, when in place, never serves but on purpose to accept the next day, while the public good is most commonly the work of time. A Minister must some times be contented with only laying the first stone desiring his life. f: XXVII.

Obs: The quere in the beginning of the above paragraph remind me of what a gentleman, D. Shippen told me long ago that he heard Mr. Robert Morris say when he was appointed Superintendt of the finances of the U. S.— That he could serve the U. S. better than any man in it but by God he would take care to make his own fortune too." ——— This was exactly the man Mr. Neckar despises & there is no doubt of his having carried into full execution what he declared, so as to sow & reap plentifully. A. Lee

Exchequer-bills, payable to bearer, wch had been discounted at a loss of 23 per Ct in Septr 1776, & of 20 at the beginning of the war, were negociated at only 8 per Ct when I relinquished the direction of the finances.

Perhaps it is also a public benefit, to shew on the mind of courts, & to those, whose eyes are only struck by the splendor of rank & dignity, that there exists another greatness, that of character & of virtue ——

I am likewise convinced, that an habitual residence at Versailles, weakens in an Administrator of the Finances, the inclination, taste & ambition of undertaking great things — there he sees vanities rated so high, so great a value set upon imaginary enjoyments & such a deep interest taken in the games of ambition & intrigues, that imperceptibly he loses sight of the true value of every thing that is worthy of esteem. p: lviii.

What a picture of Court! & what is worse — what a true picture! A.L.

A retreat from the great offices of State, resembles the Night of death, in which past life is no more than a dream; our transient shade no longer darts forth resplendent rays, to dazzle the eyes of envy. xviii

How can a shade dart resplendent rays? A.L.

Taxes in France	Net. produce
2 Twentieths on Net Revenue of Land	Liv. 55,000,000
3. Do. to 3. year after Def. treaty	21,500,000
Land-tax	91,000,000
Capitation	41,500,000
Impost local in Counties of election	2,000,000
Farm on tobacco, Salt &c	166,000,000
Excise & duties on wrought & D'Ethers &c	51,500,000
Duties on Stamps, Deeds &c &c	41,000,000
Duties on Markets	1,100,000
Post-office	10,360,000
Farm of Stages	1,100,000
Coinage	500,000
Gun powder mills	800,000
Lotteries	11,500,000
Casual revenue from Offices, Corporat.ns &c	5,500,000
Marc d'or on apply.s to the Chancel.r Seal	1,700,000
Duties on consumption	10,500,000
Clergy	11,000,000
Octrois - patent privileges	27,000,000
Excise at Versailles	900,000
Corvees revenue of	600,000
House-tax in Paris	300,000
Duties in all	2,500,000
Casual duties	2,500,000
Corvee	20,000,000
Tax on Lawsuits	7,500,000
France	588,000,000
G. Britain.	427,000,000
	58,000,000

Do in G. Britain

Land Land	56,000,000
Other taxes before year laid in 1783	186,000,000
Expence of collect.n	89,000,000
Poors-rate	31,000,000
Turnpikes &c	50,000,000
	25,000,000
	Liv. 427,000,000

N.o Inh.s France there 24 Mil. Inhabitants. in G. B. 16 Mil.

Nelker p. 492, [illegible]

to the whole number of the company) applied to the Crown of England in the year — & agreed to purchase the tract of land called Vandalia lying on the back of Virginia from the Alleganey mountains west to the River — which was agreed to be erected into a colony by the King & Council: that the said agreement & purchase was completed all to a fixing the Seals, & paying the usual forms of Office, by which the said company were put to very great expence in negociating the same, as appears by the paper-writings hereunto annexed. But as it is altogether incompatible with the interest, government & policy of these U. S. to permit such immoderate & extravagant grants of lands to be vested in individual citizens of these States they cannot, in justice to the U. S. recommend the confirmation & establishment of the said purchases, in case the said Lands shall be ceded or adjudged to the U. S. but in order to do the strictest justice to such of the said Company who are & shall remain citizens of these U. S. or any of them, your Committee propose the following Resolution

Resolved / Incase the said Lands shall be ceded or adjudged to these U. S. in Congress

aforesaid, that on the said purchasers or such of them as shall remain Citizens of these U. S. releasing to Congress all their right title, claim & demand, to all & every part of the said lands to the use of the U. S. Congress will fully & amply reimburse to them & each of them, their heirs or assigns, their and each of their full shares & proportions of all their purchase-money, expences & charges accrued on the said several tracts Lands, by distinct & separate grants of lands out of the said several tracts of land, to the full amount & value thereof."

That is to say — That because a certain number of persons, who are or may be Citizens of these U. S., did combine with the avowed Enemies of this Country, & agreed to purchase of the King of G. Britain Lands already granted by his Predecessors, & to receive a form of government calculated for the subjugation of America, which agreement & purchase was compleated all to their forfeiting the same & of their shares in the said Lands as aforesaid, which [illegible] on the

~~petitioners~~ any such bargain & purchase, and the said petitioners were put to great expences in negotiating the same, as they say, there not being, in all the papers referred to, any other proof than the contradictory ~~testimony~~ testimony of Gen'l Wharton, — therefore that it will be strict justice in Congress to reimburse them amply & fully by grants of Land which may be ceded or ~~granted~~ given to the U. S. — and because the Petitioners themselves declare, that they were only ready to pay the purchase money — therefore the Committee are of opinion, that the purchase-money ought to be re-imbursed to them by private grants of Lands. — and as a proposal to purchase lands gives the proposer a right & title to them — therefore the Committee recommend that the Petitioners shou'd cede that right & title to the U. S.

The reader will perceive, that the conclusions of the Committee are not in the ordinary course of reasoning, but it was a select Committee; & we may not presume against their wisdom,

we can only say that their [illegible] report perfectly with all understandings.

The persons calling themselves the Vandalia Company in their Petition to Congress, by their Agent Wilkinson, state that, in 1772 the Commissioners for trade & plantations in pursuance & execution of an order of Council, reported that the Lands comprehended within the boundaries therein described should be separated from the Colony of Virginia, & be erected by letters patent under the great Seal of G. Britain, into a distinct Colony under the name of Vandalia, and that the form & constitution of Government for the said Colony should be such as in & by the said report was mentioned & expressed."

Here we have an authentic acknowledgement, being furnished by the Claiments themselves, that the Lords of trade & plantations conceived & reported in the year 1772, that the very

Cambridge, May 12th. 1790

My very old & very dear Friend

You told me, I think, in your last epistle, that you expected an answer in about two years. I don't think the term quite expired; but the spirit moveth me, and compelleth me to commune with thee on paper. — No, you are mistaken, I am not become one of the faithful. I was too near being hanged by Silus Dean, in the land of Quakers. I owe them no obligation, except thanks to that Aminadab who, dwelling on the banks of the Delaware, gave me a dinner on my return to New York. Why the Devil did not you manage to confine your demon of Liberty to your own quarter of the world? Why must the flame reverberate across the Atlantic, so as to set old Europe in a blaze. France first caught fire, and your good ally the grand Monarch, was reduced to a skeleton. The present form of government in that country is neither my a—se nor my elbow. They have destroyed the Bastile: that's a good riddance. They are about to establish tryal by Juries in criminal causes: this is reforming by halves. But I hear nothing of a general habeas corpus, without which there can be no liberty. Flanders is all in an uproar: loyalists & patriots cutting eachothers throats alternately to the great entertainment of the spectators. Joseph died before he had driven Mustapha out of Europe. The genius of his successor is yet problematical. It is generally believed he will be elected Emperor. If it be true, that Prussia has concluded an alliance with the Musselman, the Crescent is in no great danger. Apropos of Prussia. Have you read the posthumous works of the Great Frederic? If not, you have an enviable pleasure to come. Doubtless he was the very first of Mortals. These posthumous works were printed at Berlin in 15. thin 8vo volumes. They were

sent me as a present from Berlin. Read them in the Oregnal. The translation, tho' a good one, will give you a very inadequate idea of old Frederick's sterling wit & humour.

As to the present state of Philosophy in Europe we are all afloat in the midst of old Chaos. Aristotles four elements are jumbled one into the other. Water is a compound of inflammable and pure air. The Earths were four, they are now seven. Fire is light and matter of heat. Air is a compound of pure air, inflammable air, phlogesticated & calcareous gass commonly called fixed air.

It is now time that I should speak of myself. About a year ago, I published an 8vo vol. entitled, First Lines of the Theory and practice of Philosophical Chemistry. I have since republished my Outlines, under the new title of Synopsis of the Natural History of Great Britain &c. also a new edition of my Clavis Anglica linguæ botanicæ; likewise a 3d edition of my Pharmacopœa Medici. You ask what became of my intended Dictionary of Authors? To this question I answer — that many years ago, I printed the first vol. with the title of Biographia Literaria in 4to published by Dodsley. which is now out of print. It came down to the end of the 16th century. This work was interupted by my voyage to america, and has not been since resumed.

As to our domestic History, the first question you will ask is — where do we now reside? — where do you suppose? where would you have a man of letters reside, but in one of the Universities? Your Godson Charles having finished his education at the Charter House, we migrated to the county of Cambridge, and dwelt a while at a village called Trumpington, in the family mansion of Anstey the celebrated author of the New

Bath Guide, which I suppose you read before you left England. Thence we removed to Cambridge, where we seem permanently fixed. The Bishop of Elphin (Dodg-son) whom I think you recollect at Eton, resides at present in a house, built by the late Lord Godolphin, 4 miles from hence. He also came hither on account of his son. He is one of my very oldest acquaintance. Our families mix very frequently. My Harriet is now with them on a visite; but alas! they are soon to return to Ireland. As to your Godson Charles, I am in some doubt as to his call to holy Orders. If I mistake him not, he had rather push his fortune in your new world, than preach the Gospel in the Old. Give me your opinion of this matter. I have no author--ity from himself for this hint; but I am of opinion he would embrace any proposal from his Godfather Lee. — Well, our hitherto tardy correspondence not-withstanding, let me beg of you to write, at farthest within a fortnight of the receipt of this letter, and I promise you that you shall not wait long for a rep Consider, my dear friend, I have already passed my grand climateric, and consequently, that I have no time to lose. Write me a long circumstantial Epistle. Every thing relative to yourself is very interesting to me. What is your present situation? What are your occupations? Are you married? How stands your constitution? I mean the political constitution of America. How goes it with the Consul General & his family? They were a pleasant family at Richmond. As to your old friend, my young Rib, she continues to excite my jealousy by frequently talking of her fellow-traveller. She reads to me as usual, but not always without spectacles. Fare well, my dear Lee! remember to write to me within a fortnight, and be-lieve me ever your faithful friend J Berkenhout

We have quarrelled with Spain: both nations talk big; but they dare not go to war with us.

The Honorable
Arthur Lee
New York
North America

Pine St. No.

My dear brother, N. York May 19. 1790

Since my arival here I have written to you twice and have received as many letters from you — I think you mention to have written one letter that I have not received, to wit, in answer to mine of the 18th. Your letters to Mrs Dorchester & Mrs Hammond have been deliver=ered, and I wish they may have the proposed effect. But your commissions of Gallantry have not yet been executed, & perhaps never may, at least in the precise way that you mention. Having been brought nearly to my Grave by a severe illness, I feel very little disposed to Gallantry — I do most respectfully agree with you, that Government is one wanted — I have long thought so but now I am sick — This goes by a young Gentleman upon whom how careless, now a days, such are. So that for politics I must refer you to the enclosed papers — I hope to hear from you frequently & I will endeavor to be equally communicative — Your affectionate brother

R. H. Lee

Turn over.

1790 May 19

R. H. Lee to Arthur Lee

MSS: LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

If you had not learnt every body as
well as you have, I would say, are you not
Astonished to be informed that the
Inserted Resolutions in the daily Adv-
=vertiser of the 10th instant should be
so opposed as probably to frustrate them
altho' it contain a parcel of Scoundrel
Speculators went directly after the
Appropriation of last September & cheated
the Soldiers out of 27,000 dollars for
Less than a penny in the pound — And tho
the Money is yet in the ~~Treasury~~ Sub. Treasury — there resolves only calculated
to prevent the fraud from being carried into

R.H. Lee to Arthur Lee
May 19th 1790

(174)

Copy Letter

Pd. 1/4

No. 174

R. H. Lee
May 19

Mr Seth

My dear Brother, New York June 10. 1790

By the time this letter reaches Alexandria I hope you will have returned there with the satisfaction of having left our friends in Westmoreland all in a fair way of recovery - I am very thankful for your letter from Stratford which is much more circumstantial and satisfactory than I am used to receive from Virginia - But so do, and shall continue to feel much uneasiness for my daughter Nancy whose situation, from your state of it, is by no means a favorable one for her - The Measles tainting her with a fever and sore Throat, already upon her, may endanger her greatly. - Relieve me from my anxiety on her account as soon as you can - The letter you mention to have written declaring yourself and desiring I would write to Pichet & others I have not received - I got one from you desiring me to inform our Cousin R. B. Lee that he had declared you prematurely (which he denies having done) but in that you seem not first about standing yourself - However I will write to Col. Pichet shortly - Since my illness, a feebleness is left behind that renders writing hurtful to me. The President has certainly been dangerously ill, but he is fortunately recovered so well as to attend to business, and has been for 3 or 4 days past at the Hook for benefit of the Sea Air & amusement - This place however, seems not favorable to his health any more than it is to most of the Southern Members of Congress - Yet we have been defeated after a strong attempt to remove from hence - 16 majority for it in the H. of R. & in the Senate 12 for & 13 against - The Assumption has been frequently rejected in the other House, yet it is to be again pushed - The funding Bill is with us which proposes to fund the old Continental money at 75 for one - It is probable that we shall make it an hundred for one - And instead of Land & the various alternatives for paying the debts of the U. S - it seems probable that all will be refused but the simple plan of paying with money the interest at 4 p. Cent & part of the Principle, leaving the land to be sold by Land Office & the money applied to the debt

you will see that our old friend
= ment to the State Governments
papers — Have this reprinted
& get Ludwell to send it to
it in his paper — We have no news here — the Packet
brought none, but a probability of the War continuing in
the N. of Europe —

R. H. Lee to Arthur Lee June 10th 1790

S. Adams still attacks his Machr
by his Speech in one of the inclosed
papers (Nr 200)
in the Alexandria paper,
Davis in Richmond to publish

Your affectionate brother
Richard Henry Lee

My love to all my friends with you — Please
Look to Cousins now & then & urge his allocation —

(Copy Letter)

No 200

R. H. Lee

A Alexandrie Ce 14 Juin 1790.

Monsieur

Vous trouverez Ci joint mon Engagement Conditionel dont Je Suis Convenu lorsque J'ai eu l'honneur de Vous voir

Vous Remarquerez Sans doute Monsieur un Changement quant au prix mais Je le crois très Juste puisque Vous Savez bien que le premier prix que Vous m'avez demandé étoit deux Schelings pao acre et Cinq que après avoir fait mon Calcul en voulant Ecrire mon Engagement que J'ai remarqué la difference ensuite que il y avoit entre le prix de deux Schelings pao acre et les quinze Cents Dollars qui faisoit la Somme totale que Vous demandez pao Votre Lettre ; mon Intention n'ayant jamais été de payer au dela de deux Schelings pao acre d'autant plus que dans le premier moment Vous même avez vous même demandé que ce prix et que Vous Savez aussi bien

Lettre pour de Barth-Nantes.
Juin 3e 1790

que nous que plusieurs personnes de
la Compagnie de Sénio ont vendu de leurs
terres inonil que deux se Retirent

Quant au Delai et terme que je
demande il Vous est Connus Monsieur
que c'est un Usage Général en amérique
principalement lorsque l'acquisition
passe mille acres

J'ai ajouté quelque chose pour
les intérêts en cas de retard occasionné
par la Difficulté du passage de france
en amérique.

Je Serois bien flatté de terminer cette
affaire avec Monsieur Votre Oncle quand
à un Serois que pour l'occasion de lui
offrir mon Respectueux hommage et
avoir celle de Vous assurer de Sentiments
de sa haute Considération avec laquelle
J'ai l'honneur d'être bien Sincerement

Monsieur Votre très humble
et très obeissant Serviteur

de Barth

To Mons.r Monr. Debartt. Alexandria July 3.d 790

Sir/ I recd from Mr. Ludwell Lee your proposals dated the 14 of June last; in which you offer me two shillings per Acre for my Lands in the Ohio Company including a lot in the town of Marietta — the mode of payment to be 200 dol.s in Alexandria within a month after you are in possession the remainder to be paid in two equal payments annually without interest unless there should be a delay of payment.

I have the honor to inform you, Sir, that these terms are such as I cannot accept. My price is ~~three~~ ~~dollars~~ dollars 2020 in specie for which I shall make over to you my title to two shares in the Ohio Company be the quantity of Acres more or less than 3000. These shares include two lots at least in the City of Marietta which, I think, will, in a short time, be worth more than that Sum, nor would I sell them for it now, had I any prospect of ever residing in that country.

I am not acquainted with those who sold for 2 Shillings Pr Acre; but I conceive that they who risqued their money when the success of the undertaking was doubtful, & have laid out of it some time; have a good claim for at least a piece for their paper, now that there is every appearance of the shares becoming soon exceedingly valuable.

Should my terms, Sir, appear to you, on more mature consideration, to be eligible; the payment may be either made immediately in specie through your correspondent here or by bond & mortgage of the premises till the principal & interest are paid.

Major Sargeant, at Marietta is my agent. He will give you every necessary information, & the plan of the town will shew where my lot is, one only for each proprietor having as yet been

mark'd 66.

During my absence from Alexandria, a
Negroe girl belonging to me, cohabited — as I am
informed — with a penchman named
Three days ago she elop'd, which raises a suspicion
that She is gone off with that person. I do not
chuse to disgrace your Countrymen by having
a legal search made after her. But I shall
be obliged to you if you will have enquiry
made if She is in your Company, that the
person [illegible] having her may be obliged to make
me satisfaction. [redacted] should she be with him
as he is going out of this State
should prefer his paying me for her, to send
her back. After being detained She will be
of no use to me. Her price is low, only
£50. The suspicion I mention is founded
on the information of the Tavern keeper where
Mr. [illegible] had 2 of my Servants — if it should
appear to be ill founded, I hope he will par-
don me.

I should have been happy to have
been at home while you, Sir, were at Alex-
andria, that I might have embraced the
opportunity of shewing the high consi-
deration with which I have the honor
to be, Sir, Yr. most obed.t Serv.t A. Lee

Pen S Mss

N. York August 3d 1790.

My dear Brother,

The enclosed letter seal'd with black was this day given to me at the door by a gentleman just arrived from England, who said Lord Landsdowne desired him to deliver it to you. The other letter was given me by I know not whom at present. You desire information how one represents was voted last year, on the question of Instruments. I have enquired but cannot learn - do you not think however that in Cases like yours, it will be wele to apply the Common maxim - That claim should be founded on the Strength of your own title, not on the weakness of your adversarys. It seems to me that this will be the most successful method, and certainly the least exceptionable. You will receive inclosed the Secretary's estimate of the sufficiency of the funds for paying the Interest of the foreign ~~& domestic~~ debt, if the ways & means bill now under consideration passes, which will probably be the case - provision for paying the interest of the 21,500,000 appointed for State debts will not be made until the next Session - The present being to end the last of this or the middle of next week. I have not received any answer yet from you to my last stating the present price of funds & of their Interest, and desiring to know your ultimatum on the subject of selling or funding yours - A Broker told me yesterday that

Letters R. H. Lee to Arthur Lee, Aug. 3d 1790.

finals now sold for principal for 12/3 and the interest for 7/6 or 8/ I forget which — but then they allowed nothing for interest since the old Congress ceased to make provision for ~~making~~ paying interest — a bad reason since the present Congress provides for all the interest, but at 3 per cent only. I have shipt your demyjohn of French Brandy to W. Brent at Norfolk desiring him to send it to Alexandria to you — I hope to see you in a fortnight. My love to all — Your affectionate brother Richard Henry Lee

no Spanish war the 8 June but likely to be.

(No 206)

Compared with the original, which is sent to R. H. Lee Esq, & found to be a correct copy.

University of Va
Jan. 31 1837.

J. A. G. Davis,
Chairm. of the Faculty.

No 37 X 206

New York Aug. 19. 1790

Sir.

During your residence in France, a considerable quantity of arms & military stores appears to have been purchased by you for the State of Virginia. I do not find, however, any perfect account of the transaction, and as it will be necessary to have a clear state of it in establishing a claim for the amount against the United States, I have taken the liberty to ask such information from you as will accomplish that purpose, and hope you will be so obliging as to favor me with it by an early conveyance.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your most obedient Servant

W. Davies.

R. Lee Esq.

Col. Davies
recd. Sept. 14
& answered the
same day.

No 69.

Arthur Lee Esq.

Alexandria

Col. Wm. Davies to Mr.
Aug. 19th 1790 -
Letter
No 69.

My dear Sir, (No 201) Menokin Sept. 5. 1790

The other day I received a Letter from Mr Carr demanding payment of the money recovered against me in the Court of Chancery, the last Term. I do not know what sum the decree is for, but I suppose somewhere about £150 - ster. - I have written to Mr Carr that I expect you will have a sufficiency in your hands in the course of two or three months to discharge it; which I request you will do when in cash. but I am informed that Mrs Russell's heirs mean to contest the payment to Mr Carr. You will therefore please to take care that we are safe in paying. I cannot think myself that I can be in any danger in paying agreeable to the decree of the Chancery. but shall be glad to have your opinion upon the subject. Love to all, in haste Yrs ever affy F. L. Lee

F. Light Lieut Lee
to
(№431) Ludwick Lo
Sept 1th 1790

not worth keeping

[illegible]

Alexandria
Arthur Lee Esqr.

Bordeaux 18 October 1784

Sir

I am of the 25th Ultimo I am favoured me to write.

The purport of the present serves principally to inform you of a Circumstance that involves me in difficulties with a Person in your State.

A Mr Thomas Shore of Petersburg with whom I had an Correspondence on the Tobacco Trade, acted as a Factor the large the Current Price of Grain in that Quarter adding also a Scarcity without demur. This circumstance of the abundance that reigns in that District, engaged me the last Fall, to advise him of the apparent want in this Kingdom to which I added, "upon the receipt of the present you can charter One or two "Vessels, and can expedite them with diligence with Wheat, "Flour or Indian Corn, you will oblige me to accomplish the Commission.

At the receipt of my Letter a Combination took place amongst a few of the principal Merchants in that Neighbourhood, who bought up the whole of the Grain and thereby raised the prices to double my most sanguine Calculations. It being impossible on this side to know what is transacting at 1200 Miles distant in a Latitude, expose the Merchant who transmits his order to abide by the Consequences.

This Mr Shore who I cannot suppose disinterested in the Monopoly, on the receipt of the alledged of my Letter set about to execute my Commission.

My Letters left this the 20th November 1780.

His first purchase appear to be dated the 27 March 1781 here.

there is four Months. If my Letter had arrived in the ordinary
time it ought to have been at last June in December he
possibly might have then accepted the offer at the prices
mostly stated by his Letter of July say 4/6 Wheat 2/. Corn
By Letters not arriving
the intermediate Interval which is 3 to 4 Days, together
with the extraordinary advance in the price at the time of his
receiving my Letter ought to have engaged him to suspend the
execution, not to comprehend any obligation to Comply, no injury
could have attended him. In what manner does this Gentleman
accept the Commission! he lays aside Flour and Wheat, and
goes on Shipping two large Ships with Indian Corn, the one
upon the Invoice and Charter to be made at Richmond.
the other the purchase at Richmond is sent round and loaded
at Edenton North Carolina.
The two Ships contain 23000 Bushels Corn,
an Freight at an extraordinary Rate at a time that Vessels
return from their home Quarter in Ballast, forward of Freight
the Freight is contracted to be paid on the quantity of the Corn
Shipt not on the quantity delivered, an uncommon Practice
every Circumstance indicates either an Interest with the apparent
Shippers, or contracted intelligence, The Freight to be paid
as well as the Cargoes in London for which Mr Shore gives
his draft on me payable in London he had no such latitude
from me, "my Letter says your draft shall meet due honor",
this cannot be construed to make provision for them in a
foreign Country, a Circumstance that encreases the prices
15 p Ct the Exchange being equal to that loss
The Circumstances leaves an opening to my refusing
the two Cargoes.
1st The Invoices filled up for my account & risk, the Bills
of Lading are filled up to be delivered to Mr John Beresford
and Mr Shore, Brother to Mr Thomas Shore and Passenger
in

in the Ship from Richmond. The Contradiction subsisting betwixt the Invoice and the Bill of Lading intend to M.Shore an alternative to deliver, and consequently reserves to me the right to refuse, which I further enforced by a Notorial Act.

2.o The Second Cargoe was contracted to be delivered in Scotland the 5.th April, the Bills of Lading were not signed before the 20.th a breach of Contract. this M.Shore further have open to me by an act that he caused to be served on a M.Nicholson of Richmond, the apparent Shippers. but as the Cargoe is said goeth on account of a third Interest, M.Shore consents that the Contracts holds good. At the arrival of the Second Ship I caused another notorial act declaring my refusal of any Interest in the last Cargoes.

M.Shores Brother is preparing to bring an action against me to abide by the loss. The Cargoes are put into the hands of Ships.rs Senneck & Mason & Co.e to hold the Proceeds to the order of M.Shore or whom it may concern.

The Corn is purchased at 3/ Sterling & Bus.s in London. The Current Price of Corn in Petersburg to 9/. & Bar.l in North Carolina 10/. Curr.y this difference with the Loss of Exchange is upwards of 200 p C.t

You may possibly be consulted by some of the Interested, say the Holders of the Bills which are all gone back, I know not how they will proceed, it is possible if there is an understanding in the Connection, they will consent to support the Loss in their respective proportion otherways a Law Suit may take place, and further light to justify my Suspicions.

I shall esteem the favour of you to procure me the prices that Wheat, Flour, and Indian Corn were, at, in 8.ber 9.ber & 10.ber January, February and March last in Edenton & Petersburg.

You will

Bondfield

Arthur Lee Esq.r

Alexandria

Virginia

Crishna nagar:
14 Oct. 1790.

My dear Sir,

I intended to have written many long letters this autumn, but can only write short excuses: the unusual length of the sittings and a heavy arrear of difficult business leave me little or no vacation; and I must prepare for a series of terms, sessions &c. which will last ten months. I must therefore postpone all discussions political, moral and literary, and (giving you my warmest thanks for your interesting, unreserved, and friendly letter of 10 July 1789) confine the remainder of this page to the inquiries of Mr. Skeptor's relations. I have not yet received the power of attorney, and anxiously hope, that when it comes, it will give me a power as usual of appointing an attorney under me to sue, if it should be necessary. My clerk is an attorney of the court and, if he had any legal authority to show it Burrel and Gould if asked would secure him from their impertinence. Should they be willing to make an affidavit to all they know, they shall swear it before me, and my clerk shall transmit it under the seal of our court; leaving your courts to decide, if necessary, on the admissibility of it in evidence. God grant your eyesight may be perfectly restored. My wife (the eldest daughter of the late Bp. of St Asaph) presents you with her best compliments and I am, dear Sir, Your ever faithful friend & servt.

W. Jones

P.S.

P. S. Calcutta: 7 Nov. 1790.

My clerk has just brought me the following intelligence: 1. That Burrel and Gould have left India, & that Gould lives in Bond Street, London.
2. That their agency-house continues under the firm of Burrel & Dring.
3. That Dring now here, was a prisoner with Steptoe in Haidar's country, and says that all accounts were settled between Steptoe & the house in which Dring has now a share; that Steptoe invested all his money in piece goods & Indian cloths as samples and intended to return hither with commissions for such cloth as was approved in America.
4. That a Persian of Steptoe's in here (that is a black servant) who remembers his purchasing the cloths, but knows neither the value or quantity of them. Surely Mr. Steptoe's relations should write a bill against the Captain who must know what is not known here, as the clerk says.

Judge V. H. Jones
& Jurors of Dist. Ct.

My dear father, (No 432) Dumfries 11th October 1790

Here I am one of the most miserable of the sons of men. And has it then come to this, that any act of my life should add affliction to my fathers breast! To a fathers breast, whom not nature only, but reason had taught me, to esteem, to love, to revere! If you love your Son, suffer not such forebodings on his account, suffer not such fears on your own, to destroy that quiet of mind, now so necessary to the confirmation of your returning health. And can my father entertain so poor an opinion of the judgement of his Son, as to suppose, that he would suffer himself blindly to be led to destruction. Whatever evil may try or falsehood practice, I think, a cautious coolness has ever waited upon my endeavours. But hear all, as you shall know all before you pass your final judgement. Permit me to say that wrong information has been one great cause of your uneasiness. I shall state to you the

ven

sum of all my bargains. But let me first remark that when I married a lady whose fortune & whose former mode of living, entitled her to expect & have those conveniences which better life requires, without money, without fortune myself, without a house to live in, a bed to sleep in, or a chair to sit in, without the smallest assistance in any of these things, with Debts even of the estate to pay, how or where was I to procure those things, except by an exchange or sale of some part of her property. To live in want of all the conveniencies of life, until the slow progress of the profits of an estate, on which there were such poor improvements, that one plantation only has cost me near two hundred pounds to put in proper condition, would have been a cruelty to her that I could not justify. In this view, under these pressures these will stand my bargains I have given. The lower land, which to me was of no great value over & above

still

a decrease - thirteen Negroes (not thirty, six of whom only are workers - a bond of twelve hundred pounds to Mr William Lee, I am about to pay four hundred out of my present crop - In return I have got a house & land in a situation most eligible & commodious, that has cost its proprietors two thousand five hundred pounds & from the prospective value of property in its vicinity promising increase of value, I have gotten this house completely furnished with good & genteel furniture, three hundred pounds worth of which I have had of Col. Lee, consisting of beds & Mahogany chairs, a Sopha, bed curtains, window curtains, Side board, wine keeper & a pipe of wine - I have eight hundred & seventy pounds worth of goods with approved security & I have got two hundred & fifty pounds worth of horses, Every four carriage horses, three waggon horses - four Stud horses. The state of the account will shortly stand

three

Given		Received	
Lower Land	2000	Sunderhill	2500
Negroes 35 round	455	Furniture &c	30
Bond	1200	Bonds	870
Plumpoint	400	Horses	250
	£ 4055		£ 3920

From this statement, in my estimation a just one, it appears, that I have sacrificed a little more than an hundred pounds, for the purpose of being quickly & finally settled in life - Thus my dear father, I may hope, that you will cease your fears for me & think I have not been the easy dupe you thought me - But now as to yourself - The tender mercies of C. L. &c you say are not even to Screen they would not be - He cheered me [illegible] increasing regard for your [illegible] determination [illegible] let you go on as you had done in the case of [illegible] Property - But this is certainly indeed if the affections of your son were a security you have lost - But you shall not lose that security - I

will take care so to fix it this fall that you shall have
yet that security - It is a pleasing idea that I cannot
I will not part with, that I have it in my power to
make my father easy in mind - Send me a description
of the Land you make use of, & it shall be yours - I mean
the woodland you want - Yet I hope that this will
not prevent a determination which I am happy to
hear, you are forming, of coming to live in Alexandria
provided you can rent the Land below - It will be a
comfort to me to have you in a situation, where it
will be in my power to convince you, that you have
not a sincerer friend in the world, or a more dutiful
child - & where the experience of your counsels may be
my guide & guard - Do if you can come & live with
me - It shall be the happiness as I now feel myself the
most miserable of your connections

Again let me entreat you with the earnest

Yours &c

fulness of my heart not to let your mind be depressed on
my account. Tho I have not activity to make, I know
I have caution to save - And as to yourself, Letters
motives of delicacy prevent your answering my re-
quest of pointing out what is the wood land you
want in situation & quantity. Be assured that
my bargaining is at an end - It was forced upon me
by necessity - The object is obtained & it is over - I trust
you now think not so much to my injury as your good.
Col. Lee has made me an executor in his will to enable
in case I am debts to him to discharge the debts of the
estate - greatest part of which are paid - But above all
let me intreat you to come & live among us, where the
education of your sons & the health of yourself & family
& the wishes of your friends call you. Col. Lee is to have
the rent of the land - I have complied with your
request

in burning your Letter, it is gone, but its contents are in my heart. Displeasing they cannot be, for what can displease from you, especially the breathings of parental regard - but sorrowful they are. Let me hear from you quickly, that you are better, that you are easy - restore peace to a mind that cannot be it whilst you sorrow -

Adieu my dear father I ask
remember your afflicted Son

Sandwell Lee

Ludwell Lee
R. H. Lee
Oct. 14th 1790

(No 432)

1

Ludwell
Oct 13 1790

Petition of Ludwell Lee
& Richd Lee Esqrs
Executors of Thos Ludwell Lee
Deceased

Thomas Lee Shippen
14th Octr 1790

Dear Sir, Chantilly January the 15. 1791

I was yesterday honored with your polite and obliging letter of december the 30th last past, for which I pray you to accept my best thanks. as well as for your kind attention to my papers. I fear the state of my health, tho' improving, will not permit my setting out for Congress before the last of this month. So that I can only hope to be with you early in February, if no unforeseen accident happens I shall be with you then. You are pleased to ask my opinion upon the two subjects that you state as depending before Congress - With respect to an increased duty on imported spirits, I am informed that in some places the smuggling of this article is much practised - And how it may be wise to tempt men into the practise of violating law, deserves due consideration. To a reasonable & unabusive excise I have no objection. If does not appear to me that the public have any business to become Bankers, because

because Banks are capable of great abuses, and because such abuses practised by Government, leave injured Individuals too much without redress— A very great Author has given that obvious reason why Governments should not Trade; & banking is a kind of Traffic that tempts by interest to abuse— To this reason you may add, if you please, the very weighty ones to be found in Dr. Smiths Wealth of Nations Chapt. 2. Part. 2.d Vol. The reasons assigned by that sensible Author against the Government of England I suppose engaged, must be seen by every person experienced in American affairs to apply here with very increased force. xxx

I will defer what further I have to say on this and other subjects until I have the pleasure of seeing you. My respects to Mr. Monroe & to all my friends. I wish to be remembered particularly to Mr. Jefferson & the Skipwith family.

I am dear Sir your

affectionate friend & Servant

Richard Henry Lee

Dear Sir Alexandria 20th Jany 1791

I enclose you three bills drawn by John Felt on Gurdon Backus at Petersburg in my favor viz

one for fourhundred dollars	£120.0.0
one for two hundred fifty dollars —	75:0:0
one for seventy one pounds 18/10 —	71.18.10
	266.18.10

any expense you may be at in sending to Petersburg for the money shall be repaid by me; and as Mr. Backus says he has the money ready I expect he will pay at sight.

This money I have given an order to Mr. Hodgson to receive ~~his~~ has been waiting for an opportunity to send you money. Your last letter I have not time now to ~~let~~ make any remarks upon. I am with respectful compliments to Mrs. Hopkins your most obedient servant Charles Lee

Charles Lee
Jan 20. 1791

Copy.

Chantilly, January 28th, 1791

My dear Madam:

I am just now favored with your letter of the 26th instant, and you may be assured that I will attend with great care to your desires, which always amount to commands with me. When Molly returns from the Court-house, where she is gone to buy ribbons, I will apply to her for the sample you mantion to guide me in the color of the Satin. The 6 dollars have been delivered, and the stays for Coln. Washington shall be procured. I am always pleased to know that our dear little Richard is well. I hope he will recover as good health as his brother John now enjoys. I assure you my dear Madam that it adds greatly to my happiness to understand that the Walnut Farm family are to remain at that place.

I beg leave to return you my sincere thanks for your obliging wishes in my favor, and returning every wish for your health and happiness I am my dear Madam

Your affectionate friend

Richard Henry Lee.

Col. Lee, Chantilly,

Mrs. Washington

of

Bushfield.

Council Chamber Richmond Feb.y 21st. 1791.

Sir,

I do myself the honour to inclose a copy of an act of the last session of assembly intituled an act to amend an act concerning a new Edition of the laws of this commonwealth, reforming certain rules of legal construction and providing for the due publication of the laws and resolutions of each session. You being one of the Gentlemen appointed to carry this act into execution, I must request the favour of you to inform me whether you will accept the appointment.

I am, most respectfully,

your Obed.t Servant.

Bowley Randolph

Arthur Lee Esquire

Excellency

I have the honor of receiving your favor of the 21st. in which you desire to be informed whether I will accept the appointment of one of the Revisors of the Laws, under an act passed the 25th. Dec.r 1790 intitled an act concerning a new Edition of the Laws of this Commonwealth &c. &c.

I have the honor to inform your Excellency that I will chearfully contribute every thing in my power to promote & effect the objects of the Legislature in

one of the Reasons.

I Wish for the most certain
reason I have to believe it to be y.r Excellency
most dev.d Servt. A Lee
March 4.th

[No 380.]

Gov. Beverly Randolph's Letter
to A. Lee. Feb. 21st 91

Governor of Virg.a

1791 –

Beverly Randolph's

No 380

Menokin June 8. 1791

My Dear Sir

My bro.r Wm informed me, by your desire, that M.r Wm Washington had left in your hands the interest due to me on his bond, amounting to £45 15 0. I am in immediate want of the money, & have therefore sent the bearer Jeremiah Sutton for it. his receit shall be good against me, for what money you send.

all here send their best love to Walnut farm

I am with affection,

Your most h.ble Serv.t

F. L. Lee

Endd

Received June 8.th 1791 of Corbin Washington forty five pounds fifteen shillings agreeable to the above order. on acc.t of Col.o W. A. Washington

Jeremiah Sutton

To Corbin Washington Esq.

Copy of Francis T. Lee's
Letter June 2. 1791
to Jerry Fielding
Rec'd July 5th 15. 0

To Corbin Washington Esq.r

of

Walnut Farm

Atkinson, State of New Hamp.
24th Novr. 1791

(No 438)

Dear Sir

The very high opinion I entertain of your candour, & liberality of sentiment, - and the epistolary acquaintance you heretofore was pleased to honor me with, must apologize for my addressing you upon the present occasion, and without further ceremony, shall take the liberty of recommending to your favourable notice and attention The Hond. Jeremiah Smith Esq. a representative from this State, in the Congress - He is a gentleman of good information, and integrity, and for one of his years hath had a full share in public employment - the several duties of which he discharged with such knowledge and fidelity as hath deserved

Hond. W. H. Lee Esqr

decisively secured to him the confidence & esteem of the most respectable part of his fellow Citizens & of this State in General — However a personal knowledge & acquaintance with him will render other information of his merit altogether unnecessary — The mutual confidence that heretofore subsisted between many of the Delegates from this State & some of the Gentlemen from your State, more especially those of your Honble family, induces me to believe you wou'd not regret an acquaintance with Mr Smith.

I must beg your further candour & indulgence while I venture to apply your kind aid & attention to a subject in its Nature more Delicate. — By the death of John Parker Esqr late Marshal of this district, that office hath now become vacant — And as it is probable there will be many Suitors for the office that you must in some measure depend upon the opinion & information of others in order to decide upon the different claims & merit of the several Candidates, you will therefore give me leave to nominate Col. James Macgregore as a Candidate for the office of Marshal in this district, he is in my Opinion well entitled, & every way qualified to discharge the duties of that appointment, he has been much employd in public business, in which he hath done honour to himself & much advantage to the State — He now holds several important offices of high trust & Confidence in this State, and have not

not the least doubt but if Mr. Macgregor should be honor'd with the appointment it will give the most full & general satisfaction to the district — confident I am he would discharge the duties of the office with fidelity ability & punctuality — I have nothing to say against the merit of other Candidates tho. I have not the least doubt there are Gentlemen who would endeavour to lessen the Credit of one Candidate in order to support the Claim of a favourite one —

I think it probable that his Excy the Presidt. of this State, a Gentleman not unknown to you, will write to some of our [redacted] in Congress very fully in favour of Macgregor — However sir if you will please to enquire of the Honble Messrs Gilman & Smith, you will be convinced my opinion upon the subject is by no means extravagant — Your friendly attention Dear Sir will ever be gratefully remembered & acknowledged by him who with the highest Consideration & respect Presents his Honor to be

Your most Obedient

and very Humble Servt

Natl. Peabody

Nath.l Peabody Letter
24th Oct.r 1791

N. Peabody
Oct. 24th 91.

(N.P.)

(~~No: 342.~~)
(No 433)

1791

No 342.

3919.5
3511.5
400.0

52.6
10.6
12
2.6
9.7

Mr Peabody

Honourable

Richard Lee Esquire

In Congress

Philadelphia

Mr Macguire

130 0.0
65.6

72 8

0.3

2 6

70 0 12

Mr Macguire

Gentlemen; Richmond January 9th 1792.

(No 435)

This Commonwealth has incurred a heavy expence during the last year in her protection of our frontier Counties and will during this year be submitted to a like expenditure of her money

No doubt can exist in the breast of any one I presume after due examination but that this money ought to be repaid by the General Government.

The Secretary at War had made some objections to the restitution required, a knowledge of which induced me very soon after my entrance into the administration of the Government to communicate the State of

the

the business to the General Assembly.

Their Resolutions together with copies of my letters and of my letter from the Secretary of War I herewith transmit for your information.

From them you will discover, that many of the previous difficulties are got over and that a portion of our advances will be returned.

This is not satisfactory, as every Shilling ought to be repaid.

I hope that the president will be pleased to bring this matter before Congress as it seems a change in their law with respect to the pay of Militia must be made or special provision be provided for contingencies of this sort.

I am persuaded that the interest of this Common-wealth can no where be confided with more safety than in your hands and that it is only incumbent on me to furnish you with the requisite inform-

-ation

-ation on any subject touching her good to draw forth the adequate exertion of your abilities.

Whether you will wait for a communication from the President or take measures yourselves to introduce the business rests intirely on your own judgement.

I cannot but suggest the impropriety as it strikes me with respect to the Militia pay; it is the same throughout the United States. From encrease of population and the effects thereof one dollar will command more in some parts of the United States than two in other parts. What then would be a reasonable al-lowance to the militia in one State would be extravagant in another — Uniformity ought to be abandoned, and right pursued.

A resort to the Acts of the several Assemblies will shew what is due compensation for militia

Sevices

services. It is well known that these bodies are actuated by a scrupulous regard to the public money and therefore that they would not allow more than was really requisite.

If a change be not obtained in this part of the Congressional law this Commonwealth never can avail itself of the use of the militia in any emergency without incurring the extra price of two dollars and a half per man per month. This is the difference between the pay allowed by our laws and the act of Congress.

Such an expence is matter of serious moment to us who have yielded up the most convenient sources of our revenue and really that Government into whose hands they have been given with the power and obligation to defend ought to take measures absolutely productive of the end, and not nominally so.

To

To tell us that provision is made for our safety in case of danger, is asserting what does not exist, because no individual in the State will leave his home for the pay allowed to him - We must therefore advance our own money in addition to the sum granted by the General Government or submit to whatever occurs.

The only matter now between the Secretary of War and myself as you will see by the copy of his letter transmitted is the sum arising from this extra pay.

I hope you will be able to procure restitution for what has been and will be advanced by this Commonwealth the last and present years, and so amend the Congressional law as to give to us the protection of our Militia where that protection shall be wanting without recur-

-rence

- rence to additional pay from ourselves

No. XX 263

Governor Lees letter

Gr. Hamilton
(No 433)
(No 263.)

Know all men by these presents that I Charles Lee of Alexandria Virginia do hereby Constitute and appoint Richard Bland Lee of Virginia my true and lawful attorney, for and in my name and behalf to sell, assign and transfer unto any person or persons one Share belonging in the Capital or Joint Stock of the president, Directors and Company of the Bank of the United States, and for that purpose to make and execute all necessary acts of assignment and Transfer, and furthermore one or more persons under him to substitute with like full power.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this tenth day of February in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety two.

Charles Lee

Sealed and delivered
in the presence of
Vincent Gray Deputy Collr of the Customs Alexandria Virginia
Michael Hanney of Alexandria Gent

Alexandria in Virginia Sct

BE It Known that on the Fifteenth day of February one thousand Seven hundred and ninety two before me — John Fitzgerald Notary Public for the District aforesaid. — — — —

came Charles Lee and acknowledged the within Letter of Attorney to be his act and deed. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal of Office the day and Year aforesaid —

John Fitzgerald Not: Pub:

Charles Lee to
Richd. Bland Lee—
1 Shares

Letter of Attorney

Pain Collection (Copy under exception 4 Pat. on last page)

(C 434)

My dear Sir April 18th 92. Richmond

I have the pleasure of your letter of the 25th ult. and am much thank you for the details of facilities it contains — It is exceedingly to be lamented that the doings of Congress manifest such love of strife.

I consider the representation will illustrative of this contemptible principle in a great degree. It seems too that accident favored the atrocious efforts of three of the enemy to the ball in the lower house were absent. You suppose that Congress will rise by the middle of this month provided another appropriation is not attempted —

The Secretary of the Treasury has recommended further appropriation and whatever he patriotic capability succeeds in his will

I imagine depends [illegible] how of your
Government.

I am much pleased by your
communication respecting the money ex-
pended by this Cherokee and hope
you will not let us loose even the
230 dollars – The sum is to be sure
small but the precedent may be-
be injurious in future as at the
close of this year another demand
must be made on the same score –

With respect to the military land
you mention a difficulty because of
Indian treaty & the present posture of
Indian affairs – I hardly think that
restoration of the lands is expected or
can be granted; but full compensation
therefor is expected Ought to be
[illegible] – But in this I only

governing [illegible] ate Question.

The command of the western army seems to engross the mind of all orders this way but I believe nothing has been communicated which shews in any degree the President intention — I think that expedient as well as your letter has placed me in the list of the supposed competitors in that Service —

I have never solicited the post and if it is offered to me my acceptance will be the result of duty only — Since my irreparable domestic calamity I am very indifferent as to my destiny & therefore war suits me as well as peace — the affection of my friends I could most dearly but prefer their silence on this occasion to any other [illegible] wishes

No. ~~2260~~ (No. 434) Gen. Henry Lee (No. 260) y Letters 1781-92

has stopped away and he enjoys delightful spring even experienced has succeeded

I know not how our friends in Westmd fare, having not yet been able to pay the intended visit -

To the gentlemen you name I will present you, & you can not in naming them your best friends -

Mr Lee's Ct. shall be duly observed -

I owe it debt to you a letter but the want of materials worthy of your notice has been the cause of my silence

I am my dear Sir with the most affec: regard

Yours ever

H Lee

Mr H

Lee

905 D (2113)

Mr. Jefferson presents his most respectful compliments to mrs Greene, and will with great pleasure write to mrs Morris, on the subject of her son's return, forwarding her letter at the same time. he thinks mrs Greene concluded that he should return by the way of London. if he is mistaken she will be so good as to correct him, as his letter to mrs Morris will otherwise be on that supposition.

Apr 25. 92.

Mr. Jefferson presents his respects to Colo. R.H. Lee and returns the paper he desired. he wants the effect of the applications spoken of, before he will move in the case of mrs Church.

Apr. 25. 1792.

In the Name of God Amen I Arthur Lee of Sans down in the County of Middlesex being of sound and disposing mind do make this my last will and testament, revoking all others; this twenty seventh day of July one thousand seven hundred and ninety two

1st My Will is, that all my just debts be paid; and that my remains be entered in the Vault of my dear parents: unless I should die at an inconvenient distance

2d I give to my most dear Brother Richard Henry Lee for his life only all my Lands and Negroes, Houses, Stocks and Furniture, except as hereafter shall be excepted in the County of Middlesex.

3d I give the said Lands, Houses Furniture, Negroes & Stock at the death of my said brother, to his son Francis Lightfoot Lee, together with all my lands in Kentuckey, with my lots in the town of Richmond to him and his heirs forever.

4th I give to my said Nephew F.L. Lee, the tract of Land in the province of Maine granted to me by the State of Massechusets to him & his heirs forever.

5th I give to my said Nephew Fifteen acres of Land being a lot in the parish of Passyunk near Philadelphia to him & his heirs forever.

6th I give to my said Nephew my stock in the Bank of North America.—

7th I give to my Nephew Cassius Lee my Lots in Norfolk, my Lands on the north side of the Ohio consisting of my shares in the Ohio company

Arthur Lee—

and my purchases from the U States in the seven ranges and also my purchase from Col. Henry Lee of his Military rights consisting of eight thousand five hundred acres— to him and his heirs forever.

8th I give to my said Nephew Cassius Lee my postponed 6 p. Cents in the funds of the U States

9th I give to my Nephew Ludwell Lee all my French books & Manuscripts.

10th I give to my Neice Flora Lee my set of white sea China of seve together with the red & white seve china Coffee Cups, tea pot, milk pot & bowl.

11th I give to my Neice Hannah Washington, one half acre lot in Alexandria lying on Washington & Oronoko Streets & Letten on ground rent to her and her heirs forever—

12th I give to my Neice Ann Lee a half Acre lot in Alexandria lying on Princess & St Asaph streets which I purchased of Colo Henry Lee to her and her heirs forever; and also my silver bladed desert knives with pearl handles.
13th I give to my Neice Harriot Lee the six lots in Alexandria, sold to me by Colo Henry Lee and which by his agreement with me were to yield fifty pounds p annum ground rents, to her & her heirs forever.
14th I give to my Neice Sally Lee one half Acre lot in Alexandria No 76 on Duke and Royal streets to her & her heirs forever.
15th I give to my Neice Lucinda Lee, one half acre lot in Alexandria lying on Duke & St Asaphs streets & letter on ground rents to her & her heirs forever.

Arthur Lee

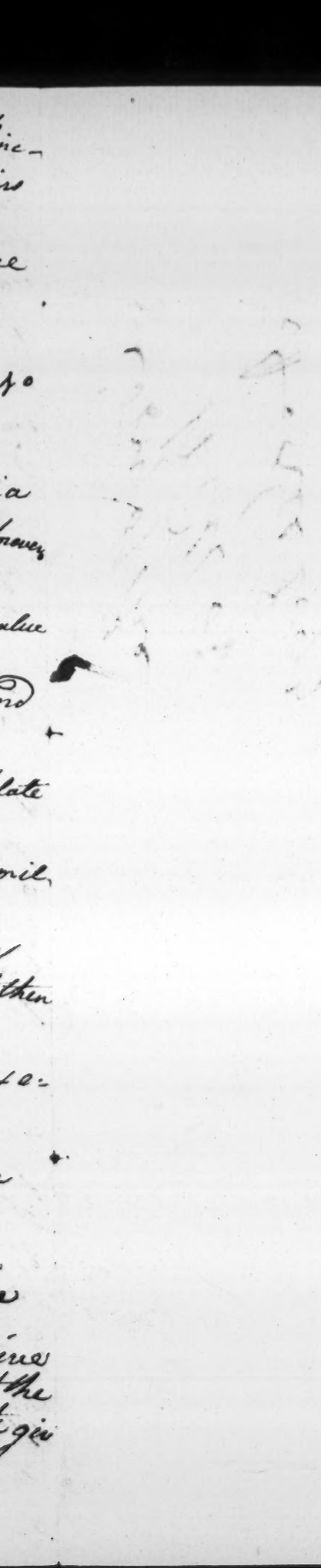
16th I give to my Neice Ann Brent a peice of plate as she may chuse of the value of twenty guineas—
17th I give to my Dear sister in law Rebeca Lee of Menokin my diamond ring & my gold sleave buttons, with pictures in them.
18th I give to my sister in-law, wife to Richard Henry Lee a peice of plate of the value of ten guineas.
19th I give to my Dear brother Francis Lightfoot Lee my gold enamiled snuff box set with diamonds.
20th I give all the residue of my estate, real and personal to my dear brother Richard Henry Lee, if he should survive me, if not then to his son Francis Lightfoot Lee—
21st I constitute & appoint my brother Richard Henry Lee my sole executor and if I should survive him then I request my friend Ralph Wormely of Rosegill to accept of that charge and of a peice of plate worth thirty Guineas for his trouble

Arthur Lee

October 25th 1792 codicil. I give to my Nephew Lapsius Lee five thousand dollars in lieu of the deferred 6 p cents which I give to my Nephew Francis Lightfoot Lee and it is my Will that the aforesaid five thousand should be paid out of my bank Stock given (No 6) to my nephew Francis Lightfoot Lee

Arthur Lee

B Stocks D Cts 8000
Guineas 20·10·30 total 6 p 60



Copy of the
Will of
A. Lee Loyd

M

1918 BEQUEST OF E. J. WENDELL

For value rec.d I promise
to pay in November next
four hundred & sixty rix. 16/10
to John Harvie - Interest on
this sum is due from the
first of October 1792.

£460 " 16 " 10
53 " 12 " 0
£522 " 8 " 10

Th: Mylle

By y.r Acceptance to Danl. Brodenbaugh - £150 -

Light-House Harry

1792

Richmond Jan.y 18.th 1793

Sir (No 436)

I am just favord with your of the 14.th inst.
The contract I entered into with your deceasd.
Brother was formd to enable me to make
a very extensive & as I thought very en-
-table purchase. Upon the faith of this
negotiation my brother M.r James Marshall
is now in London with full powers to bind
some other Gentlemen with myself to the
immediate payment of a sum of money
which I cannot command without resorting
to the stock I purchasd from M.r Lee & which
I should not have bound myself to pay but
for that purchase. If then sir the ex-pected
engagements should be made in London I

shall be unfortunately so peculiarly circumstanced as to be compelled to request a performance of the contract which has been entered into. If as is more than possible, my brother should not enter into the engagements for which he is now in London, I shall feel real pleasure in relinquishing a contract the completion of which can produce the most remote inconvenience to you. For myself I have no apprehension of danger, because an immediate transfer of the stock to me would I am firmly persuaded enable me so to dispose of the money it would produce, as to compensate the loss in the purchase, before I should be called on to apply it to its ultimate object. This opportunity will soon pass away not to return again. I shall not however wish to call on you to make the transfer unless found to do so by the circumstance which produced the contract. I expect to hear decisively from

London in March or April next

Accept sir my unfeigned thanks for the regard
you express for me & believe me to be
with real respect Sir your

Your obed.t Sert.

J Wansell

John Marshall
Letter Jany. 10. 1793
Making his return for
Commissioning with Mr. Attle
for the Bank Stock, more
desiring I have the Letter
commission into execution

Richard Henry Lee exp.
Chancellor.

Wm. Munford

J. Marshall
Janu.y 10. 1793

27.24
(9177)

Feby 11th 1793

Sir,

(Mr Lee)

On the 16th Instant I was favoured with yr Letter of the 29th ult. by yr. son, Mr Thomas Lee, and should have answered it sooner, had I not been engaged, at that time, in buisness that would not admit of delay. I find by yr Letter, what you will discover from my answers to yr queries, that you have greatly over-rated my stock of legal knowledge, which, tho' never considerable, has been in the wane since the year 65, when I quitted the Bar, sold my library, and engaged in a different profession. Since then I have had little inclination, and less opportunity (for want of books) to encrease my former stock, or derive any advantage from it, further than as it has enabled me to compose differences amongst my neighbours, and prevent them, as far as I could, from falling into the claws of Pettyfoggers. — To avoid the charge of affectation, or of ill manners, I have complied with yr request, and given my sentiments on the Case stated; which you must accept upon the hard terms, or which the Parsons oblige us to take our wives, i.e., for better for worse. — This Letter, with its enclosure, will be placed in the hands of yr. son, Mr Thomas Lee, with whom I have not the honour of a personal acquaintance; the only one of yr Offspring that I know is Mr. Ludwell Lee, whose understanding & conduct in life must afford you that kind of heart-felt pleasure, which none but a Parent is capable of feeling.

I am very respectfully, Sir,

yr most obedt Servt.

Occoquan the 11th of Feby 1793

Lee Massey

Mr. Mayo's
Rec. May 1793
Letter N. Feb. 1793
enclosing his opinion
on Schaukers contract
with Potter &c. for
Bank Stock

(No 407)

Dear Sir: Richmond
January
[illegible]

By [illegible]
Sec. [illegible]

Richmond County.

Charity.

Richard Stanny Lee, Esquire,

[1793 Apr 11]

Whereas W. A. Washington Esq.r has this day transferred to me all his Right in and to a Judgment by him obtained against Peter Conway upon Bond amounting to £337 and some Shillings of which Bond H. Willis and John Thornton are the Indorsers for and in Consideration of a pipe of Madeira Wine of the value of £75 and Lots in Matildaville of the value of £262: now I do hereby oblige myself to use all Legal Means to recover the said Bond against the said Indorsers for my own use and that I receive the same as £337 unless it shall be determined that no legal Recovery can be had against Indorsers or the Indorsers of Bonds in which Case a pipe of Madeira Wine of equal value is to be returned me and the Lots so purchased in Matildaville reconveyed to me and my Heirs by the said W. A. Washington but this Agreement is conclusive and binding upon us in every other Instance excepting as aforesaid: Witness my Hand this 10.th of April 1793.

Test

Mr. Dan.l Adams

John Gill

c1795 Apr 13

Gen. Henry Lee's
agreement to a Judg-
ment against Robt.
Conway, John Thorn-
ton Anderson &
the Bond of H. Willis

No. [1793 May 6]

The Commonwealth of Virginia.

To Patrick Lockhart, Gentleman:

KNOW YOU, That from the ſpecial Truſt and Confidence repoſed in your Fidelity, Courage, Activity, and good Conduct, and upon the Recommendation of the Court of the County of Boletourt, our Governor, purſuant to the Act "For regulating the Militia of this Commonwealth," doth appoint you the ſaid Patrick Lockhart, Major of the Second Battalion of the forty eighth Regiment of the ſaid Militia, to take Rank as ſuch, agreeably to the Number hereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Theſe our Letters are Sealed with the Seal of the Commonwealth, and made Patent.

WITNESS, Henry Lee Eſquire, our ſaid Governor, at Richmond, this sixth Day of May, 1793.

(REGISTERED.)
Sam: Coleman.

Henry Lee

(1438) May 31st 1793

Sir

I have the honor to inform you of the rec.t & remittance to Alex.a of Nine thousand Livres for acc.t of the Est.e of y.r late Brother Arthur Lee, Esq.r

Rec.d
from the Bank of North America, dividends accruing to. . . . . } 600 Dls

from the Bank of the U. S, as agents for the Treasury, interest on public debt or Stock } 181.53

from the same, an equal sum for the same objects (due before, and passed to his own credit) } 181.53

Total rec.d — Dls 963.6 Cts

Remitted

to the Bank of Alex.a for acc.t of the hon.ble H. Lee Esq.r 1 Cr. Ct. in a treasury bill at sight on the Coll.r of the Customs at Alex.a . . . } 500 — 11

to the same in the same kind of draught for the same Sd. . . . . } 463.6

Total rem.d — Dls 963.6 Cts

You will perceive that a quarter's interest on your brothers Stock had been rec.d by the Bank, I was unknown to you, and that the amount thereof is rem.d with your other Money to Alexandria —

Col. Franks has received your Mortgage

and acknowlegements.

Mr Wells has written you an apologetic letter some time since. He has been dangerously ill.

I am told my 4 Cent Stock, which was sold at 16/5 and perhaps lower has been sold at 18/3 & 2 o/-

No prize ever taken in this River or Bay of Delaware except Mulgrange, which was captured about 7 or 8 miles within a line drawn from Cape Henlopen to Cape May, & which has been since given up -

It is probable that ships hired for guns and carrying out Cannon in their holds may have gone from some of our ports - No representations have been made by the Minister of any foreign Station upon this subject. It has been informally considered but no call for a decision has been created by circumstances.

We have very serious and important accts. relative to French Affairs, but none later than those from the English papers of the 10th of April.

It is impossible to ascertain the precise alteration of Conduct of Genl. Dumouriez and the causes, which have produced the change in him - whether hastily avid heats, corruption, or compromise with the Germans.

I have the honor to be with the very great respect, Sir,

your most obedient

& most humble Servant

Francis Coxe

Philad.a May 31. 1793.

The public prints, containing letters from Genl. Dumouriez & the Duke of Saxe Coubourg, explain the extraordinary affair of Dumouriez. The combined Powers, it is understood, intend to prosecute the war ~~vigorously~~ immediately. - France has now to be united and wise, or her enemies will put her to a very serious situation indeed.

(~~No 47.~~
(№ 438)

No 47.

Philad.a July 7. 1793

(N.o 446)

Sir

In answer to your Enquiry in your last letter I have the honor to inform you, that M.r Otis is in Philad.a and is expected to continue there thro' the recess of the Legislature.

I shall propose M.r Wells of a substitutes power to transact your business, as his ministerial attention to objects of the same kind on every quarter day will ensure a punctuality, w.h it may not be in my power to attain. In the meantime be assured Sir, I have felt real pleasure in the little service you was pleased to command, as it affords me an opportunity to evince, tho' in a small degree, my remembrance of the candor and goodness with which you have always treated me.

If you or M.r Wells should find my opinion in the State's product fitting at any time

desireable, I shall be happy to attend to his or your call.

The foreign World appear to retain their confidence in the United States. Persons of various from France, G. Britain, Flanders, Holland & Germany have purchased since the rising of Congress near 2,000,000 of acres of new lands in Pennsylvania & New York: and it is generally understood, that the purchases are likely to be continued. Very frequent instances of their buying improved estates in the country and Towns have also occurr'd. The race of Dunnourer thro Flanders, the skirts of Germany & into the Dutch Territory, the disorders of France, and of Britain & Ireland (political & commercial) appear to be turning the views of many to our shores. The Navigation encrease greatly the original inducements to mountain

our neutrality. There are some Democrats who do not seem to feel their weight. I do not fear that we shall become engaged, but without a good deal of coolness, wisdom and firmness we cannot preserve peace.

We are very long without any information from Europe. The sad catastrophe of St Domingo has no doubt come to your knowledge. Several of the fleet have made Philad.a, Baltimore & New York.

The prospects of Indian affairs are not favorable in Georgia, and quite uncertain in the West.

With perfect respect,

I have the honor to be,

Sir

your most obed.t humble

Servt

Tench Coxe

Tench Coxe (Philadelphia Penn.)

(№440)

3 Letters

~~No 48~~

tho' not equal to Mansfield or Franklin.

That you may long continue here and happy, & when removed from this, experience increased & never ending felicity in a better Countrey; & that the good Mrs Washington may participate in both, is the cordial wish of Millions, but of none more so, than of.

My Dr Sir,

yr ever affectionate

& mo. Obt Servt

Edmd Pendleton.

From His Excell Govr Lee of Virginia 17th September 1793

Richmond, Septr. 17th, '93.

My dear Sir,

The Letter which you did me the honor to write to me dated 21st July got to hand just as I was departing for Winchester, from which place I am late returned.

To this cause is to be attributed chiefly the lateness of my reply, tho' my wish to have known with accuracy the mind of my countrymen relative to those matters which were beginning to agitate the community, would of itself have induced some delay.

I ever attributed the mad conduct of a certain foreigner to the insidious and malignant councils of some perverse ambitious Americans. I had grounded my opinion on this point from a variety of circumstances which progressively took place, shortly after the arrival of the foreign gentleman & I concluded long before the publication signed by Mr I & Mr. R. made its appearance that a party was formed under

the auspices of this foreigner to draw America into the views of France however unjust and disastrous such conduct might be - among the many symptoms of this wicked combination no one affected me more than the establishment of a Society in Phil^{a} call'd the democratic Society. This was intended as a Stand ard for the people to rally under, and menaced from its very nature the destruction of the constitution & government under which we live. The gratitude & just affection felt by the Amer. icans towards France, it was supposed would bury in the pub lic mind a regard even for their own country for a while, which space of time would be sufficient to produce the contemplated embroilment. - The part you had taken on the subject of neutrality opposed their views. You became of course an object of their hatred, as well as an obstruction, to be removed - Encouraged by the silly and impudent declama. tions published in some of the public prints they were hardy enough to believe that could they impress a conviction of your enmity to France and its cause, that you too would be pros trated.

Little did they know the American people - Elated with this hope their partizans circulated everywhere reports calculated to foster the temper they had given birth to, & to fan the fire they had kindled. To complete their well fabricated plan they introduced the administration as favouring Gr. B., for which nation they well knew the deep rooted hatred possessed by the people of the U. S. -

At first success seemed to hover over their efforts, then it was that the unparalleled exhibition of the agent of a foreign nation publicly inviting the people to unite with him agst their own government was presented to the world - an epoch memorable indeed, whether we regard the atrocity of the act, or the moderation of the power against whom it was directed.

The transaction soon flew into every part of the continent, it became the subject of constant enquiry & conversation — Finally it was understood, & consequently detested.

The people began to speak out, & their utterance stopped the farther efforts of the conspirators.

However, Sir, the matter is not over, the first plan may be in part relinquished, but its main object will never be abandoned until those among ourselves who engender their nefarious plans be dismissed from station & confidence. It is suspected by many that such characters are to be found in high employments, that many may be readily met with in State & Congressional offices no one doubts — to detect the designs of these men & to expose them to the public eyes is the work of true patriotism, & I hope will be soon commenced by those who have leisure & ability. In this country, much will depend on the Assembly — If they act on the business and act with becoming energy, a deadly blow will be struck to the malignant combination, & great good result to our country — They meet next month. On their patriotism & good sense I rely with confidence.

I am very sorry to hear of the loss of your manager, & I fear you cannot soon replace him.

Henry Lee.

Dear Sir. Alexandria Octr 23d 1793

Having been informed that you designed to go northward in a few days, and fending Mrs Lees recovery to be too slow for the purpose of seeing you at Mount Vernon as we travelled homewards; I had fixed on this day, with my Son Ludwell to pay our respects to you. But, to my very great mortification and disappointment, I was attacked with a fever last Night, the consequence of the influenza that has afflicted me for some days past; and which deprives me of the happiness that I this day proposed to myself. It realy gives me infinite concern to find, even a few, for I am sure they are very few; who appear disposed to disturb the peace of our country under the feigned pretext of favoring the cause of liberty in France. I call it feigned because I think that a very carelefs Observer of what paffes, must have seen, for some time past,

That

the Contest in France has been Lyes for Liberty
than for Jacobinism or Anarchy, to favor the
views of Ambition and avarice). A Sovereign might
it be said that supporting O. Cromwell was defend-
=ing the cause of Liberty, when he had destroyed
it by erecting a despotism in his own country!
But the very Men who talk in favor of french
Liberty acknowledge our inability to go to War,
and yet they are inconsistent enough to counsel
a conduct that must inevitably produce it!
It appears to me, from some of Mr. Genets late
proceedings, that Jacobine like, he wishes
from the atrocity of his own conduct, to
force others into such intemperance as
might at once justify and excuse himself.
Give me leave to assure you Sir that
to hear of your health and happiness will
always contribute greatly to mine; being
with the most unfeigned affection dear
Sir your friend and Servant
Richard Henry Lee

be in the vicinity of Philadelphia (Germantown I believe) on the first of November I shall decline saying any thing on the subject of your application till then — It being my invariable custom to possess myself of the circumstances of every case before I decide on a nomination to the office —

With esteem & regard,

I am, Sir,

Your Very Hble Sert.

Go. Washington

Richd. Henry Lee Esqr

Dear Sir,

Your favor of yesterday was handed to me upon my return from my usual ride, and almost at the moment I was sitting down (with company) to dinner, which prevented my acknowledging the receipt of it by your Servant. —

I am sorry I shall not have the pleasure of seeing you & your Lady before I return to the Northward, and regret the cause — On Sunday, if I can previously arrange some business that presses, I shall commence my Journey, and, if I can render you any service whether I am going, I should be happy

in - doing it. —

On fair ground, it would be difficult to assign reasons for the conduct of those who are arraigning, & constantly (as far as they are able) embarrassing the measures of Government with respect to its pacific dispositions towards the Belligerent Powers in the convulsive dispute which agitates them but their motives are too obvious to those, who have the means of information, & have viewed the different grounds they have taken, to mistake their object. — It is not the cause of France (nor, I believe, not of Liberty) they regard, for, could they involve this Country in War (no matter with whom) & disgrace, they would be among the first and loudest of the clamourers against the expence and impolicy of the Measure. —

The specimens you have seen of Mr G— 's sentiments & conduct in the Gazettes, form a small part only of the aggregate, but you can Judge from these to what test the temper of the Executive has been put in its various transactions with this Gentleman. — It is probable, the whole will be exhibited to public view in the course of the next Session of Congress — delicacy towards his nation, be restrained doing it hitherto. — The best that can be said of this agent is, that he is entirely unfit for the Mission on which he is employed; unless, contrary to the express and unequivocal declaration of his Country (which I hope is not the case) made through himself,

to

it is meant to involve ours in all the horrors of an European War.— This, a interest motives of his own—or having become a dupe & the fool of a Party, formed on various principles, but to effect local purposes, is the only solution that can be given of his conduct.—

I sincerely wish that Mrs & yourself may soon & effectually recover your health & with very great esteem & regard

I am, Dear Sir,

your most obt Servt

Mount Vernon
Octr 24. 1793

Go. Washington

Edward Carrington Esqr.

Dr Sir,

Your Letter inclosing acct of expence incurred in making an Express to the Secretary of State is received; & I now enclose you thirteen Dollars & 5/9, the amount of the acct transmitted by you.— I am very much obliged to you for the dispatch & punctuality with which you forwarded my Letters to the Secretary, I will attend,

I am &c

Mount Vernon
25. Octr 1793

Go. Washington

(№439)

Without date — say 1793

Sir

In consequence of the permission you were so kind as to give me I do myself the honor to submit to you the following observations. I do this, Sir, with the less reserve because I know my misconceptions will have no effect in misleading your judgment, while the truth and reason I may suggest will have their due influence.

By Sect.ᵗʰ 3ᵈ Sect.ⁿ of the Bill it is proposed to give to the Comptroller for the time being the superintendence of the Customs -

To this provision an objection occurs, that it contains the evil of a power to determine upon the accounts of a numerous and respectable set of public officers, whose business will have been previously performed under the guidance of the executive power of the same person, who is thus to judge

and this is very important to those officers inasmuch as the Revenues of impost & tonnage, amounting to above 3,000,000 Dr.s are to be received & paid under the controul of this judicial power. An officer of the customs, who should have a difference with his superintendent or supervisor would be very disadvantageously situated, to come before him as the comptroller, & Judge of this accounting transations, which in some of the ports amount to 4, 6, & 700,000 Dr.s & annum. Disputes among the public officers must grow out of this arrangement if it should be adopted.

Further - One of the duties assigned by the Treasury law of 1789 (Act. 12. Sec.2) is the superintendence of the Revenues. Here Congress contemplated those Revenues, as an entire and ~~undivided~~ undivided object. In reducing the duties of the Secretary into a more proper form, and to a more managable size this duty of superintending the revenues presents itself as one admitting a convenient & easy separation - capable of being converted without difficulty into the business of the officer, who (as

it proposed in lieu of the Assist. Secretary). Among the inducements to commit it to that officer a very important one in a young country owes - that he has been now two years engaged with the Secretary of the Treasury in the management of this very business - that three Import laws have been enacted in the preparation for which he has borne a part so far as he may be supposed to have done his duty - that he has been acquainted with the progress and finable Settlement of many principles now established, and with many of the dangers to which this important branch of the public revenues has been or continues to be exposed.

It may be likewise observed, that in the opening & growing state of this country, wherein things are every day changing, conveniences and advantages will arise from depositing (at least so long as may be practicable) in our

Hand

the duty of superintending objects so intimately blended as the revenues from internal and external objects. These objects have relations to and interferences with each other, which it is extremely desirable to conciliate and adjust, and there appears little doubt that economy and facility in the Execution will be derived from having the two joined. It would be useless to represent to you, Sir, so palpable a fact as the connexion & relation between home & foreign trade & the consequent utility of keeping the revenues and business arising from them in the charge of one officer. An opposite practice in Britain may perhaps be urged. They are separate there it is true, and yet that nation has succeeded in both. This may arise from other causes, and it may be observed that the extensive scale of their excise & impost duties forces them to employ many different persons and into many subdivisions of public business, that will be long unknown to us. To adopt those subdivisions on a

country is new, inexperienced and changing as ours yet is, might be injurious at this time. And when the subdivision is compelled by necessity more experience & knowledge will have been obtained. The measure will then be more safe and easy. — Besides it is not improbable that in the royal governments of Europe, these subdivisions may have been made to increase offices, and thus to extend the power and influence of the Crown.

I trust I shall not appear sir, to undervalue the just pretensions of a brother officer, when I ask whether it is probable (ceteris paribus) that the Comptroller's experience in a state without commerce and in the accounting offices of that state and of the Union can enable him to render as much public service in this line, as a person bred to trade in our largest sea port — practiced in it since, and occupied for ten years in the public concerns of the national commerce. You know, Sir, enough of the attention which I have applied to this subject to suppose I must feel great personal regret at the establishment of a formal separation between the commercial affairs of the United States and my proper duty. It has been my constant practice to collect and import books and documents which would enlighten the trade of the world before me, to make investigations of important points in relation to our own Commerce as difficulties occured upon them, and you have seen in the papers transmitted by order of the Senate by the Secretary the pains I have taken to ~~ascertain~~ ascertain every item of our commercial Commerce and transactions. Those papers were prepared by the labor

of many months. and were nearly complete when the order of the Senate was made. They were no part of my enjoined duty, but voluntee[r] exertions in the public service.

I will conclude this first objection by a single remark - That the necessity of avoiding a pre-conceived judge (in the person of the present Comptroller) has manifestly occasioned the proposition in the 9th Sect. of the bill now under considera-tion. Yet if of consequence enough to require a special legislative provision to meet a few cases, it cannot be right to introduce the same deviation from principle in a permanent esta-blishment of the greatest consequence.

The second objection that occurs to the arrangement proposed for executing the Office of Auditor and of the Treasury by the Comptrol-ler -

No such provision exists in the depart-ments of State or war - nor did any such provision exist in the Treasury before - If it is to be made will not the Commr. of the Revenue be more minutely acquainted with

the secretary's business, by the contemporaneous execution of business in aid of the Secretary's virtue of the 7th & 8th lines of the 5th Sect.—
But is it constitutional to appoint (for it is substantially appointing pro tempore) ahead of a department or principal officer by an act of the two houses, except the officer to execute the office of President, for which particular provision is made. Will it not operate to secure a Secretary from a particular part of the Union by anticipation, to the injury of the just pretensions of the middle & southern states - will it not affect the independency of the President in his nomination to the office at a future time when a vacancy occurs, and the [interpolated: influence from] of the Senate to advise & consent, or to refuse by raising up pretensions, parties, and local influence. Would it be better to let the three principal officers of the Treasury act as a temporary board than to have these evils hazarded, or to leave it by law to the President to provide. It may be urged perhaps that the other officers are to be supplied, but it would be better to have them put on another footing than that a

bad arrangement for the principal office should be made. I think however a distinction may be fairly taken in regard to them, as they are "inferior officers" whose appointments may be made, ~~by Law~~, in such manner as shall be directed by Law.

I feel a decided conviction that the offices of Chief Justice & the Secretaries of the three Departments should be put on such a footing that when vacant they should be unclogged by the pretensions of any subordinate officer whatever. The man of the first abilities, that can be found should be induced into the station. In appointing these officers, as in appointing a ~~other~~ commander in chief in the army or navy, dull seniority and length of service should be considered as nothing. Yet we have seen a whole party refuse to support the Cause of their Country because a favorite officer was postponed to an abler commander. Our republics have not a little to fear from such conjunctures of time & circumstances,

and it is unwise not to foresee and avoid them.

I trust, Sir, that whatever may be the appearance of personal interest in this business you will perceive so much of public concern blended with it as to form an apology for the trouble I have taken. The liberty to give you in perusing a long letter which from the state of the business I did not think it prudent to delay for transcribing.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect, Sir,

your very obedient

& most humble Servant

Lynch Code

Wednesday Evening

The hon.ble R. H. Lee, Esq.r

Hon: Wm Shippen

&

Dr Wm Shippen

to

R. H. L

Lond Gaz 4391

Oct 1 to Oct 4 1704

Dear Sir, Chowtelly March the 8th 1794

Not having enjoyed one day's health since I had the honor of seeing you at Thetford, and closely confined at home, I know not until yesterday that Mr. H. Muse the Collector of Rappahannock had first his place in jeopardy by a conduct certainly very full of danger to the just & due affairs. A young man of the same name and family has requested me to lay before you the reputation for fitness & rightly to discharge the duties of this Office that he has acquired by doing the business of it for a considerable time past. That if you have not one more worthy in view he may have a chance to find favor with you. Doct. Brockenbrough who lives in the Town where Mr. Laurence Muse has kept the Office, and whose judgement and opinion, I think, deserves attention, writes this to me. If I had not been well satisfied of his merit, I should not have taken this liberty; but I know him to

to be a young Man of strict integrity, and that
his abilities in this Line are at least equal to any
persons on Rappahanock" — My brother Frank
of Ireneshen, who is not much disposed to give
characters writes one "This young Man is gener-
ally well spoken of, particularly for his diligence
and punctuality" It is true that I have not had
much business with him, but at such times as he has
appeared expert and clever. Were I called upon to
give my opinion concerning the late Malversation in
that Office, I think I could venture to say that I
judged this person to have had no concern in
the affair. I have spoken with him concerning his
ability to give adequate security. Upon this point
he appears to have no difficulty.

I am very happy to hear of Genet's recall. And
hope it may prove a lesson to others, however fet-
tered by instructions, for seeming to be so, that they
may not with impunity trample upon all the
forms of decency and respect, that have hitherto
been practised in the World.

Is it impossible that there can be any proof of
the Court of London's intriguing with Hessian

(3
and Portugal to hound out the former against
our Trade. In any way that I can view the subject
I cannot see the great interest that stimulate each
a conduct so very as to liable so contrary to Neutrality
and at a period when our friendship
not our enmity is to be desired. It is chiefly flour
and grain that are sent to the South of Europe on
which articles, I have not the smallest
connection with Baltimore. At the same time
that the profits of this Trade enable Merchants
to pay for the immensity of British Manufactures
that Mess.rs Jefferson & Madison say we import
from there. I confess that I do not by any means
approve the Trade Laws introduced to Congress
by the latter. They appear to me to be partial, very
ill timed, and totally unnecessary. Because,
the fact is admitting it to be one, or two that their
Theory is built and when by the bye,
Theories & the practice of Commerce have seldom
well
agreed) of our Commerce being so very
highly beneficial to us, so far as related, this
act, from the nature of things, must be
continually increasing; so as to put the
Gainers

Ufairness greatly too much in addition to prevent it from the idea of refusing on reasonable degrees.

And this without proceeding at a time and in a manner evidently to shew a prejudiced, hostile temper of mind. But what astonishes me is, to see so many of our Virginia Representatives vote for this most pernicious policy. I'm certainly Virginia will feel the ruinous consequences of this Embargo Law fatally and quickly. I hope you goodness will excuse my writing much on this subject. The plan has often engaged the public attention and been generally reprobated.

The Newspapers tell us that the present Minister of France condemns in toto the conduct of his predecessor, and in the same unlimited manner approves the principles of our government especially in what relates to our avoiding War. That he is right in both these points is indisputable. But attending to all we have seen what consistent judgement can be formed to reconcile such contradictions. There lay assert the Crafty, deep and intricate policies that distinguished the genius of France throughout

Annals

Annals of history: by which she has duped so many
Nations for her own advantage, and to their great
injury. Have we not hundred & one instances
but that the instructions published by Congress
were the genuine orders of their Master, and on
all this in his conduct you discover the perfidious
Deal of a mad Frenchman, yet it is impossible
not to see thro the whole of the instructions the
most decided determination to push us into the
War by every possible means. The words of the
instructions are we ought to excite by all possible
means the Real of the Americans vizt Fortunately, very
fortunately for these States, the Wisdom and
Patriotism, firmness & vigilance of our Govern=
=ment hath frustrated the destructive design.
But, is it possible that this Minister can speak
the sentiments of his Master when he approves
the condemnation of what they so warmly & wished
=ly desired. It is here again lucky for us that
we are fairly put upon our guard against
all the Arts and Detours of the subtle Polic
The success & happiness of the United States
is our case, and if the nations of Europe approve
War, we surely may be permitted to cultivate
the

the arts of peace. And it is really a satisfaction to reflect that if War should befall us, our Government will not promote it; but give cause to all who venerate humanity, to revere the Nation.

I beg leave to present my best respects, and those of this family to your Lady. I crave the honor to be dear Sir with the most respectful sentiments of affection Your friend & Servant

Richard Henry Lee.

Earl of Buchan &c

Gen. Washn. corresponded for many years with the Ec. of Buchan, Sr. Jno. Sinclair, Mr Allen young, & Dr. Anderson. When Mr Lear went to England he gave him letters to these gentlemen, and Lear wrote home a description of each. The letter contains matter suitable to publish in connexion with some of the letters of the above persons.

Mr Lear speaks as follows of Mr Fox, who referred in Parliament to the presidents Message just then arrived. "In an animated voice he cried, 'All the kings of Europe Sen compared with the great and the good Washington appear small;' but, said he in a lower voice, 'I must accept our own king.'" The public papers you will observe have noticed this part of Mr. Fox's speech in the Debates, but they have not given a just statement of it. I was present, and felt his words strike my very soul; I wished to have embraced him for them." — See letter dated March 26. 1794. in L. —

Copy 154

Richd Henry Lee Esqr.

Dear Sir,

I have been favored with your letter of the 8th of March from Chantilly - It did not, however by the Office mark thereon, leave Westmoreland Court House until the 16th of that Month. - previously to the receipt of it, the Nomination of Mr. Laurence Muse, to the Collectorship of Rappahannock, had been made, consequent of strong testimonials in his favor.

The manners of Mr. Fauchet, and Mr Genet, the present and former Ministers of France, appear to have been cast in very different moulds. - The former has been temperate, and placids in all his movements hitherto; The latter was the reverse of it in all respects. The declarations made by the former, of the friendly dispositions of his Nation towards this Country, and of his own inclinations to carry them into effect, are strong and apparently sincere. - The conduct of the latter is disapproved <u>in toto</u>, by the Government of both. - yet it is time only that will enable us to form a decisive judgment of each; and of the objects of their pursuits.

The British Ministry (as you will have perceived by Mr Pinckney's letter to the Secretary of State, which has been published) disclaim any hostile intentions towards this Country, in the agency they had in bringing about the truce between Portugal and Algiers; yet, the tenor of their conduct in this busines has been such - added to their manoeuvres with our Indian Neighbours - but more especially with respect to the late orders of the King in

council

council, as to leave very unfavourable impressions of their friendship, and little to expect from their justice; whatever may result from that of the interest of their Nation.

The debates, on what are commonly called Mr. Madison's Resolutions, which no doubt you have seen (having been published in all the Gazettes) will give you the pro and con of that business more in detail than I could do if my leisure was greater than it is; - but these resolutions, like many other matters, are slumbering in Congress; and what may be the final result of them no Mortal, I believe, can tell.

I learn, with regret, that your health has continued bad ever since I had the pleasure of seeing you at Shuter's hill. - Warm weather, I hope, will restore it: if my wishes could be of any avail, you assuredly would have them. With best respects to Mr. Lee and the rest of your family, in which Mrs. Washington unites, I am, with very great esteem and regard,

Dear Sir,

Your Obed.t and
Affect.t Hble Serv.t
G.o Washington

Philadelphia
15th. April 1794.

Robt. R. Livingston, Esqr.

Dear Sir, (Private)

Circumstances have rendered it expedient to recall Mr. Govr. Morris from his Mission to the Republic of France.

Would it be convenient and agreable to you to supply his place?

An affirmative answer, would induce an immediate

250
SVE

Richmond July 11. 64

Dear Sir

By accompanying letter herein I have submitted to the Legislature, I must admit it is my favorable character. In reality I shall be much disinclined if you will not accept the appointment tendered to you.

The crisis is all important to our united country, & upon the calls of personal appetites are alone now proper to direct the public councils — among these they are most to, that would be just confidence of their fellow citizens — an obedience & diligent attention & unexceptional proceedings cannot fail to have

that party exist & that both seem to have forgotten America in their dissentions & parties & Britain.

We want men who will feel themselves sufficiently engaged by attendance to our own affairs & their attachment to their own country & so great as to exclude attachments to other nations—

It is probable I fear you will not agree to go into the National town but I truely hope you will accept the appointment & do as Gen.l Lee did, resign when you feel yourself so commanded—

I could urge a thousand reasons in favor of your acceptance but really I do not think it proper to tire you with them, because you certainly will not by a refusal lose

the feelings of your numerous friends &
say hereby to your country, that no occa-
sion will I refuse you -

If the senate should be
called in September the business will
be all important to keep the
ship with [redacted] be useful to your
health & opportunity will be
presented in it to gather great
& useful information both as a
public & private man -

I will stop & confide thoroughly
in your obedience to the wishes
of your country & your friends

I am in haste your friend
Broome & remain with best wishes
to Mrs. B & family your real friend

J. Bill C

130.15.3
53.18.9
76.16.6

Public Matters

Richmond 28th July 94.

Dear Sir

I have written often to you lately & hesitate to write to you - In one of my letters I asked you to sell Belvidere for me & described the place to you - As soon as it was known that I offered it for sale on the conditions mentioned I had offers for it & accepted one made me by Mr. Washington.

In my sale I have withheld about 20 acres on the river including the canal - a most advantageous site for water works, which is very much at your service. With real esteem

I am Dr. Sir yrs. sincy. Odell

Philadelphia July 24. 1794

RICHD. July 28

22

Timothy Pickering Esq.

Secretary of State

Sir,

Richmond August 11. 1794.

Your letter of the 19th ultimo enclosing a return of the Regiment of Militia under your Orders came duly to hand and contains very satisfactory reasons for the delay which has attended the Arrangement of the Militia of Gloucester.

Printed Returns are ready and will be forwarded to the Brigadiers for their respective Regiments.

The furnishing Arms to the Militia has lately engaged the attention of the Executive but as yet from many difficulties which occur no plan has been adopted.

I hope some of these difficulties will soon cease, when the subject will again be taken up, and you shall be informed of the decision of Government thereupon.

I am very confident that your exertions to reestablish the discipline of your Regiment will be equal to that Zeal and love of Country which has uniformly marked your Character, and that in case of Actual Service the Commonwealth cannot fail to derive due support from the Militia of Gloucester.

I have

She known to be in
both Detachments of every
respectful regard your Obt. Ser.t

H Campbell

Lieut. Bagot

RICH^D NICHOLAS

Postage paid

PAID 10

John Page Esquire

Commandant of the Militia

of

Gloucester

		Dr. Henry Lee Esqr in ayc -	Dollrs	Cts
1794 Sept.	17	To Cash returned you out of the P.r 18	2	
	19	To Cash pd McKim in part of his work at the Ofice	116	
		To pd Beard & Kearney in part do. do	40	
		To 2 Grates ... for. do		
Nov.	1	To paid Rawlins for Brick work at do	150	
	21	To paid Paul for Nails for do	24	66
Dec.	3	To paid the Glazier for do		44
	10	To paid Tho. Wilson as per yr order	5000	
	12	To paid expences on Land warants for you 300.000 acres taken out at your request in the name of Wm. McElroy		97
		To paid for the above 300.000 acres Land warants delivered you	5853	83
	15	To pd Beard & Kearney in full	48	66
		To paid the Glazier	2	66
	17	To pd McKim	100	
1795 Jany	2	To pd Peck for hinges for yr house	5	55
	7	To pd the Glazier for do	5	
	8	To pd. Hardin Burnly for you as per yr directions	449	84
	19	To pd. the painter for your house	1	
	23	To bolts for house		75
	24	To pd painter for yr house	5	50
	26	To paid Rawlins for your house	22	
	31	To paid for blower in part	2	
		To bal. due for blower		
Feby	3	To paid yr. ayc with Dock Foushee	115	53
	11	To paid painter for you	2	
	20	To paid do - for you	6	
		To my order on Doct McClurg in fav. Rawlins say	106	66
		To my order on Do. in favour of McKim for	00	60
Jany	16	To bolts &c. for the house	9	50
1793 18th. June		To so much due you from you to Campbell & Kenyon which I am to pay omitted £54.4.8 2 Int	195	
		To paid Doct. McCaws ayc	31	92

March 4th 1795 The above account settled this day
B. Washington

Henry Lee

1794		Dollars	Cts
	1st	G. Washington	
Sept. 17	By Cash ———	18	
Octr. 19	By Cash of Harry Heth	134	
Octr. 31	By Cash of Mr. Carrington	200	
Nov. 11	By Cash of Mr. Hopkins on acct of yr. Bill on Ludwell Lee	60	
25	By do. of do — on acct of do. —	90	
Decr. 10	By Cash of Richd. B. Lee on yr. acct	500	
12	By do. from do. on Do.	6445	84
1795			
Janry. 20	By money in hands Cash of Doctr. M'Clurg supposed to be all of which I have not rece'd	550	
Feby. 3	By Cash of Mr Hopkins on acct of Ludwell Lee for you —	10	
	By a Bill at 30 days date from R. B. Lee on yr acct drawn by Robt. Morris on B. Harrison accepted 9th. Feby 1795 —	2000	
	By exchange on horses a Servt. for a Waggon —	133	33

Ballance due R. Lee
& Co. brought forward from 4th. March 1795

State of Acct of
Genl. Lees remittances
1795

to Bill rec'd and included my note for £110 to him or his Agent to discharge Richd. Lees part of the encumbrance on the

Albemarle July 11. 1809.

Dear Sir

[redacted]

Your letter from Spott. C. H. was handed to me Lately on the road at a post office near [redacted] Wt. Lundsays
as any letter from London. The communication [redacted]
it made, by recurring to antient transactions between us, con-
nected with the proposed motion to it, [redacted] just before of joined in the case gave me much concern.
The statment of the account appears to be perfectly correct
in all the items. [redacted] as to the sum
of five guineas paid to Capt. Fowler [redacted] I shall
be governd entirely by yr. recollection whether it has been adjust-
ed heretofore or is still due by me. If you are satisfied that
it is still due, I will pay answer it to any person whom
you may [redacted] you may appoint to receive it.
[redacted] I will thank you to send me the draft in favor of Mr Coxe, or a copy of it
as it may be useful having some settled finally
[redacted] in the transactions
wt. I once had with him.

The lots in Richmond were I think conveyed directly to Arthur
Lee, at my request in compliance with an arrangement between
you & him. They passed by his will to one of his brothers
sons who [as I have understood] sold them to Genl. M. by
whom they were sold last year to Mr Call for 3000. Dolrs.
Pray let me hear from the late Mr Ambler.

As I postponed on the receipt of yr. letter relative to yr. interest
in the Chichester estate, to make the inquiries wh. you desired
but rec'd the most unfavorable accts of it. The owner had died

some time before the rec^{t}. of y^{r}. first letter on the subject. of Mrs. Murdock who is a very honest & friendly man I obtain'd a general outline only. one of the Solicitors [one of them a person formerly in this State] I rec^{d}. a statement in detail, wh. confirmed the impressions. they had already transmitted to me you'd those contained with your a full acc^{t}. of the whole affr., & that they had communicated to me only what you already knew. It was owing to this circumstance that I did not write you on the subject, immediately after my arrival in the US[illegible]. of Maine I have no knowledge.

The attention due to my own affrs & to those of my late Brother Jones, has induced me to decline at least for the present the practice of the law. The^{n}. I resume it, as is possible after these affrs are adjusted as is possible, and you are disposed to commit any concern of yours to my care, you may be assur'd that I will take a great pleasure in rendering every possible service in my power.

Wm Lowndes
Boston Dec^{r}.
relating to private concerns

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY MICROFILM / PUBLICATIONS

The following letter from John Jay in reply to an inquiry from Richard Henry Lee III is included because of its pertinence to the earlier Lee. Jay served on several committees with Lee and the two men worked together in the authoring of some significant documents. Unfortunately none of the documents referred to in the letter survive in this collection.

Bedford - west Chester County - N. York -- 12th Feby - 1823.

Rec'd by the last mail, your friendly Letter of the 30th ult -- the principal object of which you observe, is to obtain from me, if I recollect minutely on the subject, a correct account of the part which your Grandfather acted in the three leading committees appointed by the Congress of 1774 - these were the committees to prepare an address to the King of England - to the People of Great Britain - and to the Colonies - the Committee for the first address consisted of Messrs. Lee, J. adams, Johnson, Henry, and Rutledge - to this committee Mr. Dickenson was afterwards added -- You further observe, that it had been generally understood, that Mr. Lee was the writer of that address; but that it has since been ascribed to Mr. Dickenson -

So many years have elapsed since the Congress of 1774, that my Recollection, as to many of the occasional and incidental circumstances which occurred in the course of their proceedings, is not distinct.

It appears from the Journals of that Congress, that the committee to prepare an address to the King, reported a Draught of such an address on the 21st Oct.r -- that after some Debate it was recommitted, and that Mr. J. Dickenson was on that Day added to the Committee - as soon afterwards as the 24th Oct.r they again reported; and on the next Day viz.t the 25th Oct.r the address they had reported was debated, and after some amendments approved. By which of the members of the committee it was written, I do not remember to have been informed -- To me it appears probable, that the same Draught which had been recommitted; was with the co-operation of Mr. Dickenson amended, and again reported: -- That Mr. Dickenson, between the 21st Oct.r, when he was added to the committee, and the 24th Oct.r when they for the last time reported, should have proposed to the Committee to lay aside their Draught, and that he with their approbation, should have undertaken, and to their Satisfaction have finished an entire new address, is in my Opinion improbable - especially considering his Sense of Propriety, and the Characters and Abilities of the Gentlemen of that Committee.

On the 11th Oct.r 1774 - the Congress Resolved unanimously, that a Memorial be prepared to the People of British america, stating to them the necessity of a firm united and invariable Observation of the measures recommended by the Congress, as they tender the invaluable Rights and Liberties derived to them from the Laws and Constitution of their Country. - "Also that an address be prepared to the People of Great Britain

Britain:— "Ordered that Mr. Lee, Mr. Livingston and Mr. Jay be a Committee to prepare a Draught of the Memorial, and Address:—

It was agreed in the Committee, that Mr. Lee should prepare a Draught of the proposed memorial, which was the first both in order and Importance — and that I should prepare a Draught of the proposed address to the People of Great Britain — both of which was done accordingly. On the 18th. Octr. the address to the People of Great Britain was reported to Congress — on the 19th. Octr. it was debated by paragraphs and sundry amendments made, and was re-committed in order that the amendments might be taken in" — On the 21st. Octr. it was returned to Congress; and the amendments directed being made, the same was approved.—

On the 19th. Octr. the Committee reported a Draught of a Memorial to the Inhabitants of the British colonies; — On the 21st Octr. the Congress resumed the consideration of the memorial, and the same, being debated by Paragraphs, and amended was approved.— I have always believed that the memorial was written by Mr. Lee; nor have any Reasons to doubt it come to my Knowledge.

On the same day, viz. 21 Octr., the Congress Resolved that an address be prepared to the People of Quebec, and Letters to the Colonies of St. Johns &c.— "Ordered that Mr. Cushing Mr. Lee, and Mr. Dickenson be a Committee to prepare the above Address and Letter"— Hence it appears that your Idea of my being one of that Committee is not correct —

On the 24th. Octr. the address to the People of Quebec, being brought in, was read, and after some Debate, was re-committed.— On the 26th Octr. the Committee to whom the address to the Inhabitants of Quebec was re-committed, reported a Draught, which was read and being debated by Paragraphs and amended, was approved" — I have often heard it said, and not heard it contradicted, that this address was written by Mr. Dickenson.

On the 25th. Octr. the Congress Resolved that the address to the King, be inclosed in a Letter to the several Colony agents &c.— and "Ordered that Mr. Lee and Mr. Jay prepare a Letter to the Agents."— On the 26th Octr. the Letter to the agents being brought in by the Committee, was read and approved.— This Letter was written by Mr. Lee —

The Committee (mentioned in the Postscript of your Letter) appointed to state the Rights of the Colonies &c. included a number of Gentlemen whose Information and Talents enabled them to discuss and elucidate those Topics very ably. but I cannot particularize how far Mr. Lee, or any other Individual of those Gentlemen, contributed to the accomplishment of that Business.—

The uninterrupted Deputation of Mr. Lee to Congress by his native and important State, during many Years of Danger and Difficulty; and his continual participation in the

the Transaction of affairs of such moment, afford Inferences on which much might be said.

Altho' a recent Increase of Sickness renders Occupation irksome to me, yet as a further Increase of it might suspend and perhaps prevent my attending to your Inquiries, I kend it better to answer your Letter thus concisely, than to postpone writing — Those Inquiries need no Apology — The friendly Sentiments expressed in your Letter, merit and have my Acknowledgments —

Permit me to hint that the Memoirs you are preparing, would derive advantage from deliberate and frequent Revision — With the best Wishes for your Success & Welfare

I am Sir your obt. Servt

John Jay

Richd. Henry Lee Esqr

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John Jay